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THE

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

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MARCH, 1965

April Ready-for-YOUth Resources

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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CHORALE SINGS FOR BIRTHDAY TELECAST

1965 SOCIETY ROLL CALL

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Harold E. Westerhoff

In this 84th anniversary year the International Society of Christian Endeavor, with the help of local societies and unions, will again seek out a Christian Endeavorer of the Year.

Scores of Christian Endeavorers are doing outstanding and exceptional work in their societies, churches, schools, and communities as they demonstrate their allegiance to Christ from day to day. The International Society desires to recognize the outstanding young person as well as to encourage young people in their Christian witness. Any Christian Endeavor society, union, or adult group in the United States, Canada, or Mexico which enrolls in the 1965 Society Roll Call may nominate a young person for the Endeavorer of the Year selection.

The first award will be an all-expense paid trip (to a maximum of $150) to the 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention, Dallas, July 6-10, plus hotel and meal costs at the fabulous Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas for five nights' lodging (dormitory style, four to a room) Tuesday through Saturday and all meals Wednesday through Saturday, plus a free registration worth $5. The next three runners-up will receive free hotel and meals as described above, worth $38, along with the free registration worth $5.

The basis of awards will be a nomination by a Christian Endeavor society, union, or adult group. The form for nomination will be sent to any of these organizations which enroll during December, January, February, or March in the 1965 Society Roll Call. In addition, the organizations which enroll will receive a handsome enrollment certificate. Red seal certificates go to those groups giving $30. Gifts of $50 or more earn a gold seal certificate.

Persons nominated must have passed their 12th birthday but must not have reached their 22nd birthday by February 28, 1965. Any person nominated must be an active member of a Christian Endeavor society. The completed nomination forms must be received by the International Society in Columbus, Ohio, not later than April 9, 1965. The winners will be selected by a board of International judges appointed by the International Society of Christian Endeavor. The decisions of the judges are final and will be announced on May 25, 1965.

Who will be the 1965 Endeavorer of the Year? He or she may be in your church! Every society and union ought to name someone. It's very simple! Just see that your society or union is enrolled during December, January, February, or March in the 1965 Society Roll Call.

Coming Events

March

19-21—Washington State Convention, Bellingham

Contact: Mrs. Reuben Ausink, 901 Front Street, Lynden 98264

25-28—Oregon Convention, Portland

Contact: Dorothy E. Howes, 303 Davis Building, Portland 97204

April

23-25—Middle Atlantic Regional Conference, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Contact: James R. Westerhoff, P.O. Box 265, Hawthorne, New Jersey 07507

Pray for these Christian Endeavor events!

COVER CLUES

A Christian Endeavor Week hour-long telecast January 31 over WOOD-TV was presented by Grand Rapids (Michigan) Endeavorers. This Chorale (Clair Hess, director, and Harold De Cou, accompanist) and the Melodyaires Quartet sang; Ralph E. Robrahn was the speaker. Eddie Chase, staff announcer, narrated a brief history of the Christian Endeavor movement.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR *World*

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Come to Convention

Texas Endeavorers are enthusiastically preparing a typical Texas welcome for delegates who come to Dallas July 6-10 for the 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention.

Convention features include mass meetings with outstanding speakers, daily Quiet Hour and Bible study periods, Communion service, scores of educational conferences, the Junior Convention and the Christian Witness Parade on Saturday, the banquet Friday evening, special fun sessions around the luncheon tables, sightseeing, and many other special events.

Speakers to be featured at the evening mass meeings include Arch J. McQuilkin, president of the International Society of Christian Endeavor; Rev. Abel Clemente V. of Mexico City, Mexican Presbyterian Church leader; Dr. Perry E. Gresham, president of Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia; Dr. Daniel A. Poling, honorary president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union and editor of CHRISTIAN HERALD magazine; and Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, president of the World's Union and bishop for the east district of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

Convention sessions will center in the Statler Hilton Hotel, in downtown Dallas. Very economical "package plan" rates at this luxurious air-conditioned hotel provide delegates with five nights' lodging Tuesday through Saturday (dormitory style, four to a room) and all meals Wednesday through Saturday, at the very special rate of just $38. Those desiring double rooms may secure these accommodations at $51 per person; twin rooms, $52.25 per person; single occupancy, $56.

Dallas Details

Convention singing will be directed by Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, with Robert C. Ross as accompanist. Mr. Ross, now minister of Memorial Christian Church, Palestine, Texas, is a former associate president and educational secretary and citizenship director of the International Society.

Dr. Abraham K. Akaka, pastor of Kawaiahao Church, Honolulu, Hawaii, will lead the daily Quiet Hour periods Wednesday through Friday. Rev. Andrew White, African Methodist Episcopal Church leader, is in charge of the Communion service.

Local sight-seeing, planned by the Dallas Convention Committee, will include an all-day trip July 6, opening day, to SIX FLAGS Over Texas, plus bus tours of Dallas, a visit to Fair Park, and free foot tours of downtown Dallas.

Endeavorers are making plans for group travel to Dallas from many areas. Lehigh County (Pennsylvania) youth have almost filled two buses and may need a third. Virginia Endeavorers hope to arrange for a special car on the train. Chartered buses are planned from Jefferson County and Franklin County, Ohio; from Michigan; from Illinois; and from Missouri. Other groups are organizing car caravans and bus and railroad group travel.

February 15 was the first report date in the Dallas Registration Contest. Additional dates are April 1, May 17, and the final report date, June 15. At each report date an award of $10 will go to the state or provincial union making the greatest percentage increase toward its minimum goal. At the close of the contest numbered banners, choice convention seats, and parade locations will be awarded, based on final standings. The registrar of the winning union will also receive a special award of $38 to cover convention expenses.

Because of proximity to Mexico, it is hoped a larger-than-usual delegation will be able to participate from south of the border. Dr. Hector Alvarez G. of Morelia, Michoacan, is registrar for Mexico.

SIX FLAGS Over Texas, a 115-acre family entertainment theme park located near Dallas, will be a convention attraction. Delegates may enjoy a special tour Tuesday, July 6, before the convention opens. This unique park offers adventure and entertainment for the whole family. The days of Texas' past and present are re-created in six sections — Spain, France, Mexico, Texas, the Confederacy, and the U.S.A. Youth will especially enjoy the Aserradero, an exciting log flume ride.

E NEWS AND VIEWS

THE PRESIDENT'S TOUR for Christian Endeavor Week 1965 centered in Ohio. Arch J. McQuilkin spoke to over 1,300 Endeavorers at birthday events in seven areas of the Buckeye State. Mr. McQuilkin (photo above) enjoys lunch on February 2, the actual birthday of the movement, with Staff and associates at Christian Endeavor Headquarters in Columbus. At the Richland County banquet (left photo) he poses with Emory Armstrong, toastmaster (left); James V. Waddell, Ohio Union president (right); and Adele Stoughton, local union president.

• "BIG ISLAND" ENDEAVORERS on the Island of Hawaii celebrated Christian Endeavor Week with a rally and picnic January 30 at a park near Hilo. Rev. Willard E. Thomen, pastor of Imiola Congregational Church, reports that the Young Conquerors Society conducted the January 31 church worship service.

• LESLIE H. LOFTIN OF HOUSTON, president of San Jacinto District Union and second vice-president of the Texas Union, was honored by the Harrisburg Rotary Club as Junior Rotarian for January. He is active at Berean Christian Church in South Houston and plans to study for the ministry. At Milby High School he is president of Youth for Christ and commander of the ROTC battalion.

• APRIL 23-25 ARE THE DATES for the Middle Atlantic Regional Conference, to be held again at the Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The program theme, "Through Christ I Can—Win," emphasizes evangelism. International Society participants include Arch J. McQuilkin, Elwood Dunn, and Phyllis I. Rike. Special musical talent from the various states in the region is being recruited for program participation. Cost for full-time delegates is $22.50. James R. Westerhoff, regional vice-president, is program chairman.

• SOUTH OF THE BORDER will be the destination this July for fortunate Endeavorers who join the 1965 Fellowship Tour to Mexico and Guatemala. This all-expense, personally conducted tour begins July 6 in Dallas and includes the International Convention. On July 11 tour party members depart for fifteen thrilling days in Guatemala, Yucatan, and Mexico City. The tour concludes July 25 in New Orleans. Price is $810 at present published rates. For full details about this romantic, glamorous, and inspiring tour, write to Harold E. Westerhoff, tour director of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

• ENDEAVORERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Slaton, Texas, observed Christian Endeavor Day at the morning service January 31, reports the pastor, Dr. L. W. Hanson.

IT'S SUMMER IN AUSTRALIA where Endeavorers enjoyed their first week-long National Christian Endeavor Summer School of Leadership January 9-15. Photos show (left) supper time, at the end of the evening's activities, and (right) song leader Fred Parker and musical director Peter Wilkinson. Over 55 from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand spent seven days studying a wide range of subjects together. Rev. Fred J. Nile, national director, calls the school a huge success.

A PERSONAL THANK YOU is given to J. L. Hail of the Alabama Outdoor Advertising Company, Birmingham, by Charlotte Fritts. Miss Fritts served as 1964 Outdoor Poster Chairman for the Alabama Christian Endeavor Union.

A HEARTY THANK YOU

To all the local poster plant owners who cooperated in the 1965 Outdoor Poster Program, a hearty thank you!

Hundreds of Christian Endeavor posters were on display in the United States and Canada during January and February. This public relations program is made possible through the generous contribution of space by local plant owners, most of whom are members of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, Inc., and by Christian Endeavorers who provide funds to cover the cost of the posters themselves.

The outdoor advertising companies which participated in the 1965 Program are listed below. For their help in bringing the Christian Endeavor story to millions who travel along the streets and highways, Endeavorers express gratitude and appreciation.

Alabama

Alabama Outdoor Advertising Company, Inc., Birmingham

California

C. L. Smith Company, El Centro

Florida

Lamar Dean Outdoor Advertising Company, Inc., Jacksonville
Donnelly Advertising Corporation of Florida, Miami
Zimmer Poster Service, Orlando
Zimmer Poster Service, South Daytona

Illinois

Gallaway Outdoor Advertising Company, Alton
Evans-Helbling Advertising, Inc., Bushnell
Reading Outdoor Advertising Company, Centralia
Foster & Kleiser, Division of Metromedia, Inc., Chicago
Austin Poster Advertising Company, Effingham
Freeport Poster Advertising Company, Freeport
Lindy Advertising Service, Jacksonville
Honefinger Outdoor Advertising Company, Pana
Logeman Outdoor, Inc., Peoria Heights
Cornbelt Poster Advertising Company, Princeton
Busby Poster Advertising Service, Quincy
Greeley Brothers Outdoor Advertising, Springfield
Turnroth's Outdoor Signs, Sterling

Indiana

American Outdoor Advertising Company, Inc., Evansville
Brinkman Corporation, Fort Wayne

Maryland

Rollins Outdoor Advertising Company, Cottage City
B. B. Martin Outdoor Advertising Company, Elkton
Chambersburg Poster Advertising Company, Hagerstown
Potomac Poster Advertising Corporation, Hagerstown
Almido, Inc., Advertising, Silver Spring

Massachusetts

John Donnelly and Sons, Inc., Worcester

Michigan

Au Sable Advertising Company, Alpena
Central Advertising Company, Ann Arbor
Slayton & Company, Battle Creek
Mulholland, Inc., Benton Harbor
Calumet Laurium Advertising Company, Calumet
S. Champion Advertising Company, Cass City
MarBil Advertising Company, Inc., Coldwater
Au Sable Advertising Company, Gaylord
Hale Outdoor Advertising Company, Gladstone
Vandenberg Advertising Company, Inc., Holland
Hale Poster Advertising Company, Iron Mountain
Northern Advertising Company, Ironwood
Central Advertising Company, Jackson
Mulholland Outdoor Advertising Company, Kalamazoo
Central Advertising Company, Lansing
Leason Poster Advertising Company, Menominee
S. Champion Advertising Company, St. Louis
Au Sable Advertising Company, West Branch
R. Jordan Advertising Company, Sault Sainte Marie

Missouri

Hannibal Outdoor Advertising Company, Hannibal
Overland Outdoor Advertising Company, Poplar Bluff
St. Louis Outdoor Advertising, Inc., St. Louis

New Jersey

South Jersey Advertising Company, Glassboro
American Advertising Company, Long Branch
United Advertising Corporation, Newark
Joseph K. Franks Advertising Corporation, Paterson
O'Mealia Outdoor Advertising Corporation, Paterson

New York

Whitmier & Ferris Company, Buffalo
Fulton Company Poster Advertising, Gloversville
Foster & Kleiser, Maspeth
Midport Company, Middletown
Mt. Vernon Advertising Service, Inc., Mt. Vernon
Rochester Poster Advertising Company, Inc., Rochester
Richmond Poster Advertising Company, Inc., Staten Island
Richards "Of Course" Inc., Syracuse
Troy Whitmier & Ferris Corporation, Troy
Yonkers Outdoor Advertising Company, Yonkers

North Carolina

Lamar Dean Outdoor Advertising Company, Inc., of North Carolina, Durham
General Outdoor Advertising Company, Fayetteville
Piedmont Outdoor Advertising Company, Greensboro
Lamar Dean Outdoor Advertising Company, Kinston
Harris Poster Advertising Company, Lexington
Lamar Dean Outdoor Advertising Company, Raleigh
Foster Poster Advertising Company, Statesville
Lamar Dean Outdoor Advertising Company, Winston-Salem

Ohio

Cowing Outdoor Advertising, Canton
Stark Outdoor Advertising Company, Inc., Canton
Packer Corporation, Cincinnati
Packer Corporation, Cleveland
Columbus Outdoor Advertising Company, Inc., Columbus
Dayton Outdoor Advertising, Inc., Dayton
Ghaster Outdoor Advertising, Lima
E. A. Eckert Advertising Company, Mansfield
Harold Advertising Company, Newark
Wagner Advertising Company, Piqua
Cook Poster Service, Shelby

Ontario

Gould-Leslie Limited, Brantford
E. L. Ruddy Company Limited, Hamilton
Gould-Leslie Limited, Kitchener
C. E. Marley, Limited, London
Rutherfords, Owen Sound
Gould-Leslie Limited, St. Catharines
C. E. Marley Limited, Sarnia
E. L. Ruddy Company Limited, Toronto

Oregon

Carlson & Company, Bend

Pennsylvania

Ramsey Outdoor Advertising, Erie
Capital Outdoor Advertising Company, Harrisburg
Bishop-Holder Advertising, Lancaster
Donnelly Advertising Company of Lancaster, Lancaster
General Outdoor Advertising Company, Inc., Lemoyne
Ludwig, Inc., New Castle
Rollins Outdoor Advertising, Philadelphia
Johnston Advertising Company, Reading
Donnelly Advertising Corporation, Scranton
Penn York Advertising-Penn Adams Advertising, York

Tennessee

M & O Poster Advertising Company, Inc., Morristown

Texas

Rollins Advertising Company, Austin
Rollins Advertising, Inc., Corpus Christi,
Dallas Suburban Advertising Company, Dallas
Middleton, Inc., Dallas
North Texas Outdoor Advertising Company, Fort Worth
Houston Poster Company, Houston
Standard Poster Company, Nacogdoches
H. V. Advertising Company, Rusk
Valley Poster Service, Inc., San Benito
Van Outdoor Advertising Company, Waco
Kaiser Advertising Company, Wharton

Virginia

Lamar Dean Outdoor Advertising Company, Danville
Steplum Harvey, Denbigh
Virginia Outdoor Advertising Company, Lynchburg
Colonial Outdoor Advertising Corporation, Norfolk
Peterson Advertising Company, Petersburg
Turner Advertising Company, Richmond
Turner Advertising Company of Roanoke, Roanoke

West Virginia

Standard Advertising Corporation, Clarksburg
Standard Advertising Corporation, Elkins
McWhorter Advertising Corporation, Huntington
Ohio Valley Advertising Corporation, Wheeling

Wisconsin

Harrison Vande Berg, Waupun

Ready for—YOUth RESOURCES

CHRISTIAN FILMS

There are many excellent Christian films and filmstrips that can assist in adding new interest to your weekly Christian Endeavor meeting. Films and filmstrips can be rented from religious book stores in most large cities or from denominational headquarters. It should be remembered that films are best used when there is opportunity for discussion following the showing. To accomplish this, it is best for the leader to preview the film or filmstrip before it is shown in the meeting. This preview will help the leader to discover areas that should be discussed following the showing; and it will also give necessary information to intelligently introduce the film or filmstrip to the society.

The church activity committee of your society might want to consider sponsoring a project during the summer months in which good Christian films are used. This could involve all the committees of your society in a summer evangelism effort. A Christian film could be shown once a week either in a church or out-of-doors with the youth of the community being invited. An offering could be taken to help pay for the rental of the film. If the film is shown out-of-doors, it could be projected on the side of a building. Early planning and good publicity are necessary to make this a significant evangelistic effort.

VOCATIONAL CHOICE

FILMS

Called to Serve, B&W, 30 minutes, Family Films. Jim, a business education major, is considering the ministry. A series of events and a talk with a professor about what it really means to be "called" to the ministry help him discover his calling. (Rental $9.00)

Choosing Your Life's Work, B&W, 15 minutes, Family Films. Two young men learn that a vocational choice must provide an opportunity to serve humanity and to fill God's will for their life. (Rental $5.00)

Choice and Decision, Color, 30 minutes, Cathedral Films. For young people and their parents who are faced with the important question, "Should I select a church college?" (Rental $13.00)

Is This for Me? B&W, 45 minutes, Cathedral Films. A new film presenting the ministry as a possible vocation for youth of high school and college age. (Rental $13.00)

FILMSTRIPS

Youth and the Meaning of Vocation. Presents life as a trust from God and how vocation reflects a call for our whole life's service.

Youth and the World at Work. Presents the broad panorama of work and sets forth procedures for reaching vocational decisions for the best use of aptitudes and abilities.

Youth and Church Vocations. Points out the vast variety of ministries in the church and why the church needs prepared, dedicated servants.

Youth and the Family in Vocational Decision. Pictures the responsibility of the family in giving understanding and enlightened guidance while respecting the young person's independence.

(The above four filmstrips are each 15 minutes in length and color; they are produced by Cathedral Films.)

CHRISTIAN LIVING AND GROWTH

FILMS

A Christian in Communist China, Color, 21 minutes, Films Services. A moving story of a Christian leader who suffers imprisonment and torture for Christ. He chooses possible death in order to bring the Gospel to his countrymen behind the "Bamboo Curtain." (Rental $10.00)

Born to Witness, B&W, 30 minutes, Family Films. Tony Barton finds witnessing to his faith in Christ as normal as doing his everyday work in his dad's radio and TV shop. His dad, however, feels that people just don't want "religion" thrown at them. This is the story of how one's faith in Christ can be shared with others. (Rental $10.00)

Face of American Youth, B&W, 28 minutes, Ken Anderson Films. A documentary film expressing the problems, the feelings, and outlook of American young people in many walks of life. An excellent discussion stimulator. (Rental $10.00)

Part-time Christian, B&W, 30 minutes, Concordia Films. Brad's decision whether to spend more time with church-going Mary Emerson or a group of non-Christian friends makes for an interesting and realistic story. (Rental $9.00)

Question 7, B&W, 107 minutes, Louis de Rochemont. Presents the problems facing Christians in a small village in Communist Germany and particularly a teen-age boy's answer to question seven. (Rental $50.00)

Sermons from Science series of films produced by Moody Bible Institute, all in color running from 13 to 50 minutes; rental is from $6.00 to $25.00. These films include: *City of the Bees; Dust or Destiny; Facts of Faith; God of Creation; God of the Atom; The Quest; The Stones Cry Out; Voice of the Deep.*

Teenage Series of films produced by Family Films, all 30 minutes in length and in black and white. Rental is $9.00 each. This series includes: *Teenage Challenge; Teenage Code; Teenage Conflict; Teenage Crusade; Teenage Loyalty; Teenage Testament; Teenage Witness.*

The Red Trap, B&W, 30 minutes, Concordia Films. This film exposes the subtle methods used by Communist agents to capture the minds and hearts of youth in our country. (Rental $9.00)

FILMSTRIPS

Christian Teenager's Faith for Living Kit. A kit of four filmstrips of teenagers facing real life situations. Each filmstrip is in color and runs 10 minutes. The titles are: *Faith for Making Choices; Faith that Influences Behavior; For Fun—Or for Christ?; Faith for a Scientific Age.*

Christian Teenager's Spiritual Life Kit. Another kit produced by Family Films, giving guidance and inspiration for teenagers in four basic areas of Christian life: *Teenagers and the Bible; Teenagers and Prayer; Teenagers and Witnessing; Teenagers and Christian Responsibility.*

TEENAGE CONCERNS

FILMS

One Love—Conflicting Faiths, B&W and Color, 30 minutes, Methodist Films. Two young people of conflicting faiths marry and find themselves confronted by one situation after another. The film ends with nothing solved. (Rental $6.00 and $9.00)

Fourteen Going on Sixteen, B&W and Color, 30 minutes, Family Films. The story of Penny, fourteen, who is dating a seventeen year-old boy and pretending she is sixteen. The film helps younger teens understand dating and other grown-up experiences within the setting of a Christian home. (Rental $10.00 and $15.00)

Am I a Phony? B&W and Color, 30 minutes, Family Films. A film that challenges youth to examine which is more important, their faith or their dates. It will prompt teenagers to ask the question, "Am I a phony?" (Rental $10.00 and $15.00)

FILMSTRIPS

Older Teens and Dating, a series of four color filmstrips produced by Family Films on the subjects: *Going Steady; Falling in Love; Conduct on a Date; When Should I Marry?*

Young Teens and Dating, a series of four color filmstrips produced by Family Films on the subjects: *First Dates; Whom Do I Date? How to Act on a Date; Is It Love?*

Young Teens and Their Families, a series of four color filmstrips produced by Family Films on the subjects: *Learning to Live with Parents; Getting Along with Brothers and Sisters; Sharing Responsibilities at Home; Allowances.*

THE BIBLE

Our Bible—How It Came to Us, B&W, 84 minutes, American Bible Society. A documentary film that sweeps across the centuries from the formation of the Old Testament to the present time. (Rental $22.50)

Topics FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

No Parking Here

I Corinthians 15:33,34; Philippians 3:12-14

Our Aims

1. To become more aware that we're now becoming the kind of persons we'll be when we're adults.
2. To consider some attitudes and actions that should be marked "No Parking Here."

Let Them Know (Publicity)

Take a good look (if you need to) at a "No Parking Here" street sign. Sketch a picture of it. Then with the sketch as a guide, make a poster in the shape of the sign. Print the words "No Parking Here" in large letters on the sign. In smaller letters, add information about the date, time, place, etc.

Do you have members or prospective members who probably won't see the poster —even if you'd post it on the church steeple or in the parking lot? Mail them post cards patterned after the poster.

The individual contact will take extra time and work, sure. But, as you know, most people like to be made to feel that they're important to a group and that they are missed when they're absent.

Let your members know about the meeting; let them know that their attendance matters. Let them know and you're bound—by the law of advertising—to have more Junior Highs at your meeting.

During the time of your meeting have the poster announcing the meeting on display at your interest center. Or use another "No Parking Here" sign.

Since You're the Leader

You'll want to make all assignments in time for each participant to have time to prepare to do his or her part well.

Include I Timothy 4:12 in your assignments. Don't wait till the time of the meeting to do this.

If you're going to use the essay idea (What You Will Be . . .), don't forget to announce it three weeks before this meeting.

Put a mental "No Parking Here" sign by every temptation to do a prayerless, sloppy, half-hearted job of leading in the preparation and presentation of this topic.

Two or three days before the time of this meeting, contact those on the program and see if their preparations are about completed.

I Timothy 4:12

Have several different persons read the Scripture I Timothy 4:12, each one using a different version or translation of the New Testament. Have one or two other persons tell in their own words what this verse means to them.

Write the entire verse and reference (King James Version) on a chalkboard. Have the group read it aloud together. Erase a few words. Ask the group to read it again. Erase a few other words and ask the group to read it once more. Continue this procedure until the verse has been completely erased from the chalkboard. Then ask someone to recite it.

Like Teen, Like Adult

Although there have been many people who became Christians after they were adults, and thus whose lives after that were much different than they were as young people, most adults are pretty nearly carbon copies of what they were as young people. If there is a change, it is probably that their characters, which are the same as when they were young, now stand out in bold type easily read by others.

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude: *Living for Jesus*
Hymns: *Give of Your Best to the Master; I Would Be True*
Scripture: I Timothy 4:12
Hymn: *An Evening Prayer*
Sentence Prayers
Announcements and Offering
Like Teen, Like Adult
"No Parking Here"
What If Someone . . .
How Do You Rate?
What You Will Be . . .
Hymn: *Just as I Am, Thine Own to Be*
Prayer
Benediction

Ask five of your members to tell about five Bible characters whose lives as young people and as adults show that what we will be as adults we're probably becoming right now.

Those giving the reports on Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David and Timothy should refer to the Bible, Bible dictionaries and books or articles about these persons. Look in your church library for these. If your church doesn't have a library, perhaps your counselor, pastor, or Sunday school teacher will loan you some books. *(Be sure to return these when you're finished with them.)*

These reports should not just be a few paragraphs read from a Bible dictionary (how boring can you get?), but they should be *told* in the reporters' own words. Include descriptions of the persons and a few incidents which show the similarity between the person as a youth and as an adult.

To add interest they may wish to dress in Biblical costumes and give their reports in the first person.

"No Parking Here"

Before the meeting, have a committee of three compile a list of about 20 attitudes and actions that ought to be marked "No Parking Here." Try to list these in one word or two.

Scramble each word and print it in capital letters on "No Parking Here" signs which you've made approximately six by nine inches. For example, scramble snobbishness this way: BONSSIBSNESH.

Have a contest between the boys and the girls to see which group can unscramble the most words first.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Hold the signs up one at a time, being certain everyone can see them. The first person to stand to his feet guesses the word. If his answer is correct his side scores a point.

After the contest, briefly discuss why you think there ought to be "No Parking Here" at these attitudes and actions.

What If Someone . . .

Do you frequently run into the problem of wondering what to do to keep from offending or to keep from being made fun of by teens who aren't Christians and who ask or suggest that you do things that for the Christian young teen are "out"?

If your group is large enough, divide into buzz groups of five or six persons and have each group consider one or more of these or other problems. If your time and number of groups are quite limited, choose the problems that your group is most likely to face.

What if someone asks you to do the things listed below? What do you think you should do, and say?

- deface or destroy someone's property just for fun or to get even
- go steady with a nice fellow or girl
- tell him or her some of the answers during a difficult test
- play a trick on an old man or woman who doesn't seem to like young people
- keep a new Christian fellow or girl out of your close circle of friends
- smoke
- come to his or her house and watch a movie on TV that your parents won't allow you to watch at home
- skip school and write your own absence excuse
- "borrow" some money from your kid brother's (or sister's) piggy bank without telling him (or her) so you can buy that model airplane (or something else) you've been wanting
- read his or her "dirty" comic books
- skip a church service or Christian Endeavor meeting to go to a movie with him or her

How Do You Rate?

Give a copy of these questions on "How Do You Rate as a Christian Endeavorer?" to each person. Encourage each one to be perfectly honest. Tell all that after they've answered the questions with either yes or no, you'll give them the answers and have each one check his own.

1. Do I talk and act as if I'm my own boss rather than as if Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life?

2. Do I read the Bible and pray just when I feel like it?

3. Do I attend regularly the services of my church?

4. Do I do anything for my church besides attend its services?

5. Do I take my part in Christian Endeavor meetings and activities only when my best friends are the leaders?

6. Do I know of someone that I'm now endeavoring to lead to Christ?

7. Do I spend all the money I earn on myself?

8. Do I do anything to make my country a better country?

9. Do I seek the Saviour's guidance in all my activities?

10. Do I really trust Him for the strength to do His will?

Questions 1, 2, 5, and 7 should be answered *no*, and the others *yes*.

Ask all members to say together or have one member say or read the Christian Endeavor Pledge for active members.

Since our lives as young people have a great effect on our lives as adults, it is doubly important that while we are young we follow a pattern for Christian living such as the one set forth in the Pledge. And we should frequently check up on ourselves to see if we are living up to the Pledge.

What You Will Be . . .

Three weeks before this meeting, announce an essay contest. Short essays (300-500 words) on the theme "What you will be, you are now becoming" should be submitted to the counselor one week or more before this meeting. Ask your counselor, pastor, and Sunday school teacher to judge the essays.

At this meeting have the one judged first place read aloud to the group by the person who wrote it.

If your treasury will allow it, why not give a Christian Endeavor pin or some other item listed in the Christian Endeavor catalog to the winner and the runner-up?

"The Best I've Got"

Dr. Clyde W. Meadows, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union and a past president of the International Society of Christian Endeavor, related this incident in a sermon last summer.

"As a 19-year-old young man I was going away to Huntington College to prepare for the ministry. Just before I left home my father put his hands on my shoulders and looked right straight in my face and said, 'Son, I've given my life to the ministry. Now you're going out to prepare for it. I want you to go and prepare carefully and well. Do it better than I've done. It deserves it.'

"I thought my dad was a pretty good preacher. I thought he was a wonderful man—and he was.

"I looked into the eyes of my father and I said, 'Dad, I don't know as I can do it any better than you've done. But I'll give it the best I've got.' "

As a young person Dr. Meadows determined and promised to give the service of Christ his best. This, no doubt, accounts at least in part for why, as an adult, he has been chosen for leadership responsibilities in various Christian groups.

A Prayer

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at mine end,
And at my departing.

—an English Prayer
from the 16th Century

Committee Activities

Executive Committee: Perhaps you will need to consider whether or not the balance in the treasury is enough to allow for the suggestion below to the Devotional Committee, or for awards to the first and second place essay winners.

Devotional Committee: Encourage members of your society to use one or more of the recent translations or versions of the Bible in their Quiet Hour. These frequently help to make it easier to understand the Bible and its relation to our lives.

Perhaps you would like to introduce your group to the Phillips' translation by making available to them copies of *One Way for Modern Man*, an illustrated copy of Phillips' translation of the Gospel of John. These may be ordered from the American Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, New York, New York. The cost is 15c each.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Mar. 29 Knowing Right from Wrong
Isaiah 7:10-15
T. Mar. 30 Watch Your Conversation
I Timothy 4:11-16
W. Mar. 31 Walking in Obedience
I Samuel 2:35,36
T. Apr. 1 The Mind Set on the Spirit
Romans 8:1-8
F. Apr. 2 Above Board II Corinthians 4:1-6
S. Apr. 3 Truth or Consequences
III John 1-4
Sun. Apr. 4—Topic: No Parking Here
I Corinthians 15:33,34; Philippians 3:12-14

Comments by Mary Lou Funk, associate editor of United Brethren publications, Huntington, Indiana

The Parade of Palms

(Palm Sunday)

Matthew 21:1-11

Promotion Pointers

Use pictures of Jesus which you feel emphasize His courage and loyalty to the Father's will. Palm branches and spring flowers or perhaps a large palm plant can help give a Palm Sunday atmosphere to your meeting.

Purpose and Aims

The purpose of recalling the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in "The Parade of Palms" with special emphasis on the part played by the people in the event is to help Junior Highs think of ways in which they too can honor and obey Jesus in everyday life. Appeal for the trust and obedience and homage of all human hearts to the King of kings, Jesus Christ. The key question that this parade presents to us today is: "Could you have been one of those who cheered Jesus?"

Making Preparations

As you approach the Easter season, you think of the heroic Jesus who did not flinch from doing what He believed was right, even though He realized it would probably lead to His death. Your goal will be to inspire the members of your society to be obedient and loyal—even where doing the right thing is hard. The parade came before the greatest struggle in the life of Christ. Ask Junior Highs to refreshen their memories or parades they have seen or participated in and apply this to their own witness for Christ.

You will want to reread the suggested activities given in the *Guide for ACTION* —1964-65 for Junior Highs and committees to implement today's topic.

Instead of reading the Scripture verses, you may prepare to tell your own story. This choice would give you an opportunity to emphasize the things you feel are most needed to blend in with your topic talks or discussion. Be sure to tell the part about the participation and reaction of everyone in Matthew 21:1-16 also.

Use the Daily Bible Readings to indicate how others were affected in their understanding and attitudes toward Jesus. How do these help or hinder the reign of Christ in men's hearts? Either by means of a worshipful discussion or in a time of guided meditation and prayer, think about how each one can really honor Him. You can do this by praying often with sincerity, by following Jesus' teachings in your lives, by doing the right thing even when it is not easy, and by inviting others to attend your meetings.

A litany may be worked out by the devotional committee making statements of ways Junior Highs can praise Him. Following each statement the society may sing the closing part of the hymn *Praise Him! Praise Him!* or another appropriate hymn.

Leader's Introduction

Let's go to Jerusalem! I've always wanted to go to see the glories of the Holy Land. Let's take an imaginary trip to Israel. Now, for the first time, I am here and seeing the places where Jesus walked. What an interest-filled and inspiring visit in Israel!

Here in the ancient land, one of the oldest and yet one of the youngest nations of the world, I discovered there is a place where it seems the curtain is always drawn back to reveal the eternal truth of Easter. While descending a narrow, winding road between the jagged hills of Judea on the route from Damascus to Jerusalem, I saw sheep, goats, and gaunt camels. In joy and rapture I cried, "Why, it's all still the same! I'm seeing it as Jesus did—with my own eyes!" Soon I realized that my visit was taking on the significance of a pilgrimage. Here my impressions of the ancient Holy Land and the ruins of civilizations mingled with my thoughts of Jesus, the Christ, who presented Himself to His people on Palm Sunday as the promised Messiah. He was making an appeal for the trust and obedience and homage of human hearts.

Suggested Program

Prelude: *Holy, Holy, Holy*
Call to Worship: Psalm 24:9,10
Hymns: *Come, Thou Almighty King; Praise Him! Praise Him!*
Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 or Scripture Story
Prayer in Unison: The Lord's Prayer
Announcements
Prayer of Offering and Dedication
Hymn: *Trust and Obey*
Leader's Introduction
A Trip to the Holy Land
Questions to Ponder
Closing Hymn: *I Surrender All*
Sentence Prayers, concluded by the leader
Benediction

A Trip to the Holy Land

Making Your Plans

Plan an imaginary trip to the Holy Land. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, the Holy City, arrange a parade of palms. Have roving reporters interview persons in the parade. Use a tape recorder and later play back the comments.

An interview may go something like this: "Hello, I'm your roving reporter from the Junior High Society of Christian Endeavor. I wonder if I might ask you some questions." The questions should probe and reveal the inner motives and actions of those in the parade. "What do you think of Jesus?" "What do you think Junior Highs should do for Him?" "What does Christ do for you?" "Why are you cheering?" "What might happen if Junior Highs take Christ seriously?" Interview the hostile viewers and indifferent bystanders with similar probing questions.

To give background to your presentation have an on-the-spot report from Matthew. To add depth secure information about your church and community.

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How did it start? What is right with your Christian witness? What is wrong with it? How can you do more in your church? This can be an opportunity to evaluate your loyalty and obedience to Christ. A prayerful and careful consideration of the question, "What can we do in our church?" may lead to a number of suggested projects for Christ and the Church. Here is a chance for all to share their talents through the work of committees too.

The Starting Point

This is the most important moment in my life. I have always wanted to walk in Jerusalem—talk in Jerusalem—pray in Jerusalem. And now here I am about to walk the streets where Jesus walked on the first Palm Sunday. This is a great day! "Could you have been one of those who cheered Jesus?" Let us hear your testimony to our roving reporters on the parade of palms. This is the time to express our love and loyalty for Jesus. Jesus is "King for a Day!" *(Play back the comments from the parade.)*

Let us imagine that we are there on the first day of Holy Week when Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem. It is the time of the celebration of the Passover, and all persons who could possibly go were traveling to Jerusalem. Some of the people recognized Jesus, and they ran before Him spreading palm branches and singing "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

A Report from Matthew

It is only 17 miles from Jericho to Jerusalem. At Jericho Jesus had healed the blind Bartimaeus. Jesus and His disciples walked the distance from Jericho to Bethany where they found a warm welcome in the home of Lazarus and his sisters.

Jesus sent two of His disciples to find a colt tied at a certain place. The owner knew and respected Jesus. He would qualify as the ideal disciple. Jesus, the King, has priority over all the possessions of His disciples. On the back of a borrowed colt Jesus rode in royal triumph in the parade of palms. The colt was a sign of royalty and a symbol of humility. Jesus remembered the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. Jesus was proclaiming His Messiahship.

Crowds gathered to hail their king. What a day for the disciples! The crowds caught their hope and enthusiasm. They hailed Jesus as a king. Palm branches were thrown in His path. Shouts of "Hosanna" from Psalm 118:26 were heard. Jesus was "King for a Day." Excitement was intense. The interest of the feast was not centered on the Temple, but on Jesus.

Obedience to Jesus in Daily Life

1. Jesus is "King for a Day." The Church is the Body of Christ. It is the extension of His Spirit and life and His work in the world today. Being a growing member of the Church is like being a part of the Body of Christ. Because Christ lives for me, I will use my influence to help tear down hatred and try to follow in Jesus' footsteps of love and loyalty.

2. Jesus said, "The Kingdom is within you." I think this means that Jesus lives in each of us if we truly obey Him and follow His will. Mountain ranges of pride, prejudice, selfish ambitions, and worldly interests bar the way to human hearts. Jesus relies upon the heart for the building of His Kingdom. Jesus will not force His love. He rides in triumph into our hearts to become master of our lives, if we love Him and serve Him. He makes no other claim to kingship.

3. Let us trust Him that we may serve Him in our daily lives. Jesus worked for and served others all His life. Jesus is continually calling us. What will we say to Him? I must keep testing myself by asking: Am I a friend and follower of Jesus? Am I humble, gentle, and merciful? Am I clean in heart and a peacemaker? Do I sincerely believe in God? Do I forgive others as I know God will forgive me? This is my task because Jesus lives and rules today.

How Does the Parade End?

Palms are used for gladness and for triumph. When we think of Jesus and the parade, we think of people shouting and crowding around Him as though they admired and loved Him better than anyone else in the world. But the palms changed to a cross. The words of welcome were very shallow and very false.

One day the crowd was glad to praise His name, and a few days later it was glad to see Him put to death. Is this true of us today? We seem to welcome Him, but the welcome is not real. We call His name, but we turn against Him. We say we love Him, but we act as if we did not love Him at all.

Do we watch for applause or for censure as though they were tests of success? The greatest victory parade will be reserved for those who do His will for neither praise nor blame but the joy of serving Him.

Perhaps we say we want to follow Jesus. Then perhaps the next day at school we play in a mean and unfair way. If we think the teacher is not looking, we take the shortcut. Or one acts like a bully instead of a gentleman. Is this all that it means to say you want to be Christ's follower? What one does is what counts. To follow Jesus means courage, honor, fairness, and truth. When these are thrown away one is turning the palms into a cross of false betrayal.

Or suppose a Junior High girl says she wants to love Christ and to follow Him, and at Christian Endeavor sings songs and looks as glad as the people who came out of Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. She goes home and is selfish and insists on her own way. She never wants to be loving and helpful in little things at home. Do you think Christ is pleased with the palms of her words and songs?

But this does not have to be the end of the parade of palms. Palms do not have to change into denials of Christ. We can say we love Jesus and want to follow Him, and mean it completely. We can be Christian Endeavorers who welcome Jesus into our lives and keep Him forever. We can live lives so faithful that we shall always be praising Him, and making others look up in expectation because through us Jesus will be coming into their midst along a beautiful way.

Questions to Ponder

1. How did Jesus accept the clamor of the crowd?
2. Why did Jesus plan the entry into Jerusalem?
3. How did Jerusalem receive her King?
4. What is the value of parades?
5. What is the worth of popularity?
6. Do meekness and love always triumph?

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 5 Monarchs in Conflict Acts 4:23-31
T. Apr. 6 Not of This World John 18:33-38
W. Apr. 7 His Enemy Destroyed I Corinthians 15:20-28
T. Apr. 8 The Humble King Matthew 21:1-11
F. Apr. 9 A Rejoicing Multitude Luke 19:28-38
S. Apr. 10 The King Enters His City Mark 11:1-10
Sun. Apr. 11—Topic: The Parade of Palms Matthew 21:1-11 **(Palm Sunday)**

Comments by Rev. Edgar L. Mack, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal churches in Newport and Erlanger, Kentucky, and a member of the Youth Work Committee

Come and See

(Easter)

Matthew 28:1-6

Our Aims

1. To look into the tomb which is really empty.
2. To remember that for a Christian death is nothing to fear.
3. To review the truth of Romans 10:10.
4. To realize that when we believe in our heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead we have salvation and everlasting life.

The Living Christ

The following story could be narrated and the parts pantomimed or actually expressed by Junior Highs. Characters are: Mr. Ferris, school principal; Mr. and Mrs. George Hollis; and their young son, Ted.

Ted's dad, George Hollis, was sitting in the rocker reading the newspaper when he heard the front gate latch open and close again. He looked out and saw Mr. Ferris, the school principal, walking up the walk, and then he knocked on the door. Mr. Hollis couldn't figure why Ted's principal would be coming to the house. He went to the door.

Mr. Ferris: Good evening, Mr. Hollis; may I come in?

Mr. Hollis: Yes, of course.

Mr. Ferris: I thought I would like to ask you if Ted is well.

Mr. Hollis: Oh yes, I think so.

Mr. Ferris: Was he well yesterday?

Mr. Hollis: Yes.

Mr. Ferris: Was he well the day before?

Mr. Hollis: Yes.

Mr. Ferris: Did he leave the house for school?

Mr. Hollis: Why yes, he did. Why do you ask?

Mr. Ferris: Well, I thought you would like to know that Ted hasn't been in school for the last three days.

Mr. Hollis: Yes, Mr. Ferris, I am very glad you told me. I thought Ted was in school. Thanks for telling me.

Mr. Ferris: That is all right, Mr. Hollis. I know you will know what to do about it.

Mr. Hollis: Thanks a lot; good-by now.

Mr. Ferris: Good-by, Mr. Hollis.

Mr. Hollis: Honey, did you hear what Mr. Ferris said about Ted?

Mrs. Hollis: Why yes, George! I don't quite understand, although Ted hasn't acted the way he ought to for the last couple of days.

Soon Ted came home. He came running into the house with his usual quick pace, but he stopped short when he heard Mr. Hollis very sharply say, "Ted, come here please!" Ted walked guiltily into the room and sat down across from his father.

Mr. Hollis: Ted, Mr. Ferris was here a little while ago.

Ted: Yes, Dad?

Mr. Hollis: Mr. Ferris tells me you have not been in school for the last three days. Is this correct?

Ted hung his dead. He wasn't in the habit of lying to his dad and he wasn't in the habit of skipping school either, but now he was in a corner.

Ted: Dad, I am sorry; I haven't been in school.

Mr. Hollis: Son, you are getting a little older now and I am not so sure how much a spanking would help you to remember this thing; so I am going to have to punish you. Do you believe I should?

Ted: I . . . I . . . I guess so.

Mr. Hollis: Son, I am going to make you go up into the attic for the next three days, one for each day you skipped school.

Ted would have rather gone to the woodshed and got it over with. But his dad put him up in the attic. He made a little bed for him on the floor of the attic.

Mr. Hollis: I will bring your food up to you. You are going to have to stay here so you will never forget those three days that you did not go to school and lived a lie before your Mom and Dad.

Ted was mighty quiet now. Later Mr. and Mrs. Hollis were sitting down reading the newspaper and finishing their evening devotions.

Mr. Hollis: Honey, I don't feel like going to bed right away.

Mrs. Hollis: I don't either.

And it was close to midnight before Mr. Hollis went to bed. When he did go to bed he couldn't go to sleep. Mrs. Hollis couldn't either.

Mr. Hollis: Honey, I am going upstairs.

He went up and very quietly came into the moon-filled attic, and he could even see a glistening tear on Ted's face. Dad and son lay down together and went to sleep. Dad brought the meals up the next couple of days, but he also slept with his son. Ted never forgot this experience and became a good worker for the Lord. When he was grown up he would often talk about it.

Ted: My Lord Jesus went three days in the grave for all who have sinned and come short of the will of God. Dad came three days in that old dark attic and slept each night with me. We got closer then than we ever were before, and I think the Lord Jesus got as close to us as He could ever be when He experienced death and stayed in the grave three days. I'll never forget when Dad let me out of that attic. When we recognize that Jesus

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Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-6
Opening Hymn 9: *He Lives*
Hymn 12: *Praise Him, Praise Him*
A Time to Witness: Suggest that each youth have a testimony—I know that Jesus lives in my heart because . . .
Chorus: *I See Jesus*
Prayer Time: Two Junior Highs pray
Announcements and Offering
Special Music by Society Member
Responsive Reading 8: I Corinthians 15:1-22
The Living Christ
Questions for Discussion
Talks on Daily Readings
Hymn 55: *Christ Arose*
Benediction

(Continued from previous page)

came out of that grave after the three days, it becomes a precious wonderful thing in life. It is something that you don't want to forget because it reminds you that God loved us and cared for us and sent Jesus, who not only died for us but also showed us that the grave could not hold Him. He came forth, He lives, and He wants to help us live.

Publicity Ideas

Cut out cardboard in the shape of glasses. On one glass print *Come and See.* On the other print *Christian Endeavor, 6:30 at our church, April 18.*

Publish a little edition of a newspaper by the society. Make the headline *Grave Empty, Jesus Lives, Come and See.* The news articles could be about persons who are going to share in the lesson and about Jesus who still lives today.

If your church happens to have a high Easter attendance in the Youth Department, be sure that every Junior High in church on Easter Sunday gets a special invitation to this meeting.

Talks on Daily Readings

These are to be considered as seed thoughts for devotional talks by various persons in the society. Do not read word for word. Say something about them in your own words. Be sure that what you say is something that is alive and a witness that Jesus is alive!

The Convincing Invitation (John 20:24-29)

Many of us are doubting Thomases also. If we have really seen what Christ can do for us, we will want to invite others to come to church with us. Have you invited anybody this week? So real was the presence of Jesus that even Thomas was convinced. He said, "My Lord and my God." When we actually make Jesus the Lord of our lives and believe Him to be the risen Son of God we want to bow and worship Him. Here is a test as to whether our faith is real. Are we in church? Are we telling others?

Hopes Are Dimmed (Luke 24:13-21)

How dark it seemed! The "light of life" had left their midst. They thought He was dead and would not rise again. And so Jesus actually walked with them but did not let them realize who He was. Are we Christians so sad that others do not realize that He really is alive? How can they know He is alive if we don't act like Christians who have really accepted the fact that He is alive?

The Body Disappeared (Luke 24:23-27)

Evidently the disciples and followers of Jesus in this story were not sure about what it meant that angels had been observed. Immediately Jesus said, "Oh, if you don't believe this you are fools and so slow of heart to believe. Why, the prophets talked about all these things!" Jesus reminded His followers that the Bible, especially the Old Testament, foretold that all this would come to pass, but it was so hard for them to believe. One of the best ways to be sure that Jesus is living is to read His word and see His promises. Another important thing for us is that we keep in contact by talking with Jesus. Two young men discussing an account of the resurrection agreed that such a thing was impossible. They saw an old Christian gentleman and one of the young men said, "Tell us, why are you so sure that Jesus rose from the dead?" The old gentleman said, "Well, for one thing, I was talking with Him this morning."

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is the resurrection an important teaching of Christianity?
2. What are some of the evidences of the resurrection?
3. What are some of the prophecies of the Old Testament which were fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus?
4. What are some of the pros and cons as to the celebration of Easter?
5. How can our society and other Junior Highs help the church at Easter time?
6. How can our society and other Junior Highs help give witness to the fact that Jesus lives to those who are not aware of it?

The Burning Heart of Hope (Luke 24:28-35)

How wonderful it must be to have the hospitality of the Far East! These dear ones invited the traveling stranger into their home. Jesus gave them bread, and in the fellowship of the hour together their eyes were opened and Jesus allowed them to realize that it was He. Their hearts had burned within them while He talked by the way and while He opened the Scriptures. When we allow Christ to be near and within our hearts there is a precious feeling within, a warm feeling, a wonderful feeling. Do you read the Bible? Do you have that precious feeling within, the witness of the living Christ? Observe that they were so happy about it all that they immediately went and told the eleven. The eleven were already convinced of the resurrection of Jesus, and of course they related immediately how wonderful it was to have fellowship with Him. It is our responsibility to tell others about this wonderful fellowship that is possible to have with Jesus.

Seeing and Believing (John 20:3-10)

Impetuous Peter couldn't wait when he heard that Jesus had appeared to Mary. He immediately ran to see, but young John outran him. When you examine these Scriptures you observe that there is a very wonderful evidence that Jesus had actually come forth from the grave. Canon Best of the Episcopal Church, inventor of the cold rubber process from which we make tires, said he really believed in Jesus when he understood atomic process. He says that the reading of John 20:7 implies that Jesus had burst right through the grave clothes. I suppose you would call it molecular displacement. The God that made the atom certainly knew what to do as far as the resurrection was concerned. As they reviewed this precious story later, they understood the Scriptures and the risen Christ. As yet it was just beginning to come through to their hearts. From the very time of the resurrection there were those who did not believe that Jesus had actually arisen from the dead. It still is something that some people do not want to believe. There were those willing then to pay money to see that a lie was afoot. Even today the devil doesn't want us to believe in a living Saviour. Let us also be sure that we do not betray our Christ for money. When we ignore His house on the Lord's Day, which is actually an anniversary of the Easter resurrection, we may be saying in effect, "I love money more than the risen Saviour." When the test comes in your life, do you choose to tell about Jesus by your honoring the Lord's day or does money come first?

Come and See (Matthew 28:1-6

How wonderful is the invitation of the angel to come and see! The place where the Lord lay is now empty. Here is a joyous and fearless message. It helps us to face death with a certainty of the words of Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live." A Christian author once said Christianity begins where religion ends . . . with the resurrection.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 12 The Convincing Invitation John 20:24-29
T. Apr. 13 Hopes Are Dimmed Luke 24:13-21
W. Apr. 14 The Body Disappeared Luke 24:23-27
T. Apr. 15 The Burning Heart of Hope Luke 24:28-35
F. Apr. 16 Seeing and Believing John 20:3-10
S. Apr. 17 The Basis of a False Report Matthew 28:11-15
Sun. Apr. 18—Topic: Come and See Matthew 28:1-6 (Easter)

Comments by Rev. Clarence A. Kopp, Jr., pastor of the Prescott Avenue United Brethren in Christ Church, Dayton, Ohio

Topic 1 in a Unit:
The Growing Christian

Grow Up!

Ephesians 4:11-16

Publicize and Promote

Young people and adults become church-conscious during the Easter season. Build on this. Have posters in the church buildings during the season to advertise Christian Endeavor in general, and this series of meetings in particular.

Photographs or magazine pictures of a baby and a teenager will attract attention. Using real photographs of some of the society members, showing them as babies and now, could be a unique way of making others note the advertising. Change them from week to week.

Watch for new young people or families in the church during this season. Personally invite them to your programs. Make use of conversation, telephones, and post cards.

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Prelude

Call to Worship: "Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments" (Psalm 112:1).

Hymn: *He Keeps Me Singing* or *In the Service of the King*

Hymn: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* or *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Invocation

Hymn: *I Would Be Like Jesus*

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

Chain Prayer (Explain that 8 or 10 will pray. The leader calls the first name. That person prays and then calls another name. It continues until the designated number has participated.)

Hymn: *Christ Is the Answer* or *Give of Your Best to the Master*

Announcements

Offering

Special Music

Topic Discussion

Closing Hymn: *With Thy Spirit Fill Me*

Mizpah Benediction

For the Leader and/or Counselor

This topic is the first in a series of two regarding *Growing Christians*. Prepare a leader's talk that will familiarize the young people with the total picture to be painted by these two topics, particularly the one for tonight. These topics will hold out the goal of getting past the "milk" stage and into the "meat" stage and then offering some means of achieving this completeness in Christ.

Challenge the members to set goals, study, bear fruit, shun evil, but above all to grow in Christ. Discuss common problems and strive to reach solutions. Strive to meet these problems together. There is strength in numbers.

Set a Goal

There is little hope of arriving at a destination if one does not know where he is going. One does not improve his marksmanship if he does not aim at a target. Fund raisers have a mark, churches have budgets, sportsmen have records they try to break—life is made up of hopes, aims, and ideals. The Christian who is making progress has a goal. This is to do what Christ would do under similar conditions. The apostle Paul called it "pressing toward the mark."

It is not easy for young people to be Christians today. It is even more difficult when one doesn't attempt to make an effort. Moving with the current or crowd is always easier than bucking against it.

There are two ways to set goals. Each must decide his own best method. A very high goal — either impossible to reach or almost impossible—might be set. This makes constant striving, reaching, and working necessary. Or one might set a fairly easily attained goal with the silent agreement that as it is reached, the rung will be moved a step higher. Some need the encouragement of "arriving" in order to continue striving for bigger and better things. Choose the method that best fits your individual personality, but set a goal!

Some young people don't want to grow up. Perhaps they fear the responsibilities that go with growth and maturity. The person who does not love babies is rare indeed. But rarer still is the one who would want that baby to stay a baby and never develop normally. Normal life is normal growth. God planned it that way. It is expected that each one will grow up spiritually as well as physically. No one can determine his own bodily size completely, but all have the ability to determine their spiritual growth. Begin by setting a goal!

Bear Fruit and Increase

Christian young people need to take on responsibility. There is a sensible limit, however. All too soon youthful years slip by; so it is recommended that one act his age in many respects. Youth can be found to be either too immature or too mature. Let a teenager be a teenager with his ups and downs, joys and sorrows, fads and fancies, moods and thrills. This is all a part of growing up. Equally a part is assuming some responsibility.

If the Lord has blessed a particular young person with the talent of singing, playing a musical instrument, reading well, acting, operating visual aid machinery, and in any other ways, begin developing them for His service. Whether or not it is evident, other young people look to certain teenagers as idols, or at least examples. Each one should stop and ask himself what kind of an example his life is setting. There are good examples and bad examples. Take time to give attention to younger children. Even a smile is appreciated. Show them the Christian way of love and concern.

Colossians 1:10 says, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." Bear fruit for Him. Witness to His part in your life. One of the best ways to do this is by the very life you live. There is an interesting portion of a poem that says, "I'd rather *see* a sermon than *hear* one any day." What does your life teach or preach?

Increase in the knowledge of God. These are some of your best years for reading, understanding, and memorizing God's Word. Don't put off any one of

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these practices. Make a habit of reading and studying the Bible. Use other versions or translations as study helps. Have a regular time for quiet meditation, prayer, Bible study, and the reading of devotional helps. Begin each day with God!

Abhor Evil

Temptations to act in an unchristian way are always around us. If we have no more strength to say "no" to them today than we had a month ago or a year ago, or if the very same testings find us weak in the very same ways, then we are failing to respond and develop as Christians. We are not growing up spiritually. We are standing still. Our goal is to do what Christ would do under similar conditions. The mark of maturity is to display Christian love in the presence of opposition and to hold a Christian standard in the face of immoral surroundings.

We cannot isolate ourselves from *all* that is evil no matter how hard we might try. Even monks in monasteries are not completely without temptation. Should it be possible to isolate ourselves from all that is evil, what would we be accomplishing? Though we would be spotless and pure, what contribution would be made for others, for Christ and the Church? Christ did not say, "Stay pure." He commanded, "Go and teach." Surely He meant that we should mingle not only with saints, but with sinners as well. An interesting thought to carry with you in the years of gaining and making friends is to keep a friend as long as you can help raise his level or he helps you; but when one or the other begins to lower the standards of the other, depart from that friend.

Remember we must never hate the sinner, but we must surely despise the sin. Though we cannot avoid sin entirely, we can scorn or shun it. Let it have no regular part in your life. It is just as important to grow up spiritually as to grow up physically and socially. An important part of such growth is to take a stand against evil practices.

Questions

1. Of what value are goals? What kind of goals should a Christian young person set?
2. List some responsibilities that Junior Highs can carry in the church, in the home, in school.
3. How important is one's example to those of your own age group? To adults? To younger people?
4. What kind of a devotional life should a Junior High lead? Name some helpful aids in its development.
5. List some methods one might follow in trying to abhor evil.
6. How important is it that young people grow up spiritually?
7. How can we as a society grow up? How can we improve our meetings?
8. In order to better our future program, what might we omit from our activities? What might we add?

Apply Growing Up to Society Activity

Executive Committee: Continue to have regular business and planning meetings. Don't relax because summer is coming. Evaluate the past; determine to improve the future. Emphasize the four purposes of Christian Endeavor: (1) leading young people to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, (2) bringing them into the life of the Church, (3) sustaining and training them for the service of Christ and His cause, and (4) releasing them through all channels of human activity in the service of God and man.

Devotional Committee: Encourage personal devotions among members. If the Quiet Hour pledge hasn't been presented for signing recently, request it be introduced at one of the meetings. Meet regularly with leaders of meetings to help plan programs of interest to your own particular young people.

Lookout Committee: Check with your Sunday School Secretary for young people who are active there but have not become active in the Christian Endeavor program. Plan a unique way of contacting them whether it be personally, by letter, or by phone.

Missionary Committee: Have you conducted a meeting recently on the study of your own church's mission stations? With the assistance of your pastor and benevolence committee, keep the young people informed regarding your church's interests.

Social Committee: If no other organization sponsors a Mother's Day program, make plans to do it in the Christian Endeavor society. Perhaps a family program, which might be a singspiration, a supper, a special evening service, or some other similar program, could be planned.

Church Activity Committee: Cooperate with the social committee in whatever family program they undertake.

Beware and Grow

II Peter 3:17,18 says, "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." Remember also, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

Be aware that Christian growth does not come naturally as does normal physical growth. It must be worked on. Difficult decisions must be made. Don't wait for every sin, problem, or temptation to confront you before making a decision. Too many will arise in just that way. We can guard ourselves against some of the routine ones. Think, pray, and decide beforehand. Then when we are face to face with the issue, we have something to hang on to and a backlog of strength as well. Try this method if you haven't already.

Determine to grow up in *all* ways, and make spiritual maturity one of the most important. Press toward that mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. It will be worth all your effort. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Dedicate your total life to Christ, and He will direct your paths. Beware of all that is evil about you, but grow up in spite of the many obstacles!

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 19 Not Ready for Solids
I Corinthians 3:1-4
T. Apr. 20 The Measure of Maturity
Ephesians 3:14-19
W. Apr. 21 Bear Fruit and Increase
Colossians 1:1-10
T. Apr. 22 Increasing and Abounding
I Thessalonians 3:6-13
F. Apr. 23 Leave and Go On Hebrews 6:1-8
S. Apr. 24 Beware and Grow II Peter 3:14-18
Sun. Apr. 25—Topic: Grow Up!
Ephesians 4:11-16

Comments by Pearl F. Reed, director of Christian Endeavor and church secretary of First Church of Evans, Derby, New York

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, $6 per dozen, $48 per hundred.

Topics FOR SENIOR HIGHS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Take a Look Inside

John 3:1-8

Publicity Ideas

Make some posters and display in areas where all the young people will see them. Create a scene of surgery or an operating room and perhaps the title of *Dr. Christian Endeavor Operates.* List the date, hour, and place of meeting.

Leader's Introduction

I would like to introduce myself. I am Dr. Christian Endeavor. Tonight we are going to assist in surgery. There are several types of operations. One is performed while the person is alive and is done for the purpose of determining what might be the problem to his health. What is his illness? We call this exploratory surgery. Another operation is described as an autopsy or post-mortem operation. It is performed when life has expired and there is a desire to know what caused the death of the person. The first not only explores but also helps in preventing the second, because that which would cause death is eliminated.

Tonight we will study what might cause spiritual death. We will make an exploratory operation to look inside our life to determine what are the motives of our actions of life. Regardless of how we look outside, do we have a healthy spiritual life? Several of our members will read some of our daily Bible readings of this past week. We will let them be the spiritual sword which opens our spiritual body and helps us see ourselves as we truly are. They will also suggest questions for our discussion.

Talks on the Topic

Fruitless Trees

Scripture: Luke 13:6-9

It is difficult for us to think that God would cast us into a fire. He actually does not. Our fruitlessness is ours because of our lack of concern and commitment rather than because of God's casting us forth. This describes the cause for the need of a post-mortem. If a limb or any part of our physical body is made immobile, it will not be able to produce anything. Because of the lack of activity the circulation may be hampered or even stopped. When the limb is not fed by circulation, the tissue of that portion of the body dies. It may then be necessary to amputate the limb or part of the body. Why is this? It is because it is fruitless.

Likewise, when our spiritual life does not bear fruit, it is as if the body is inactive and the spiritual body becomes dead and is as though it is cast into the fire. We have this danger through our fruitlessness.

1. Presuming that the man gave the dresser of the vineyard another year, what would the dresser do?
2. What is our responsibility with our spiritual life to prevent it from being cut down?
3. In what ways is this accomplished?

Sin Affects Us and Others

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

I suppose that the heart is one of the most important organs of our body. We sometimes will do that which will injure our heart. It may be overeating, excessive exertion, or anxiety. We terminate life not only in the heart but also in the whole body, because other life is dependent upon this life.

We often omit, in our thinking, the sin of omission. As long as we don't go against the will of God, what is wrong or wherein is our sin? We have failed to fulfill the commandment of God to love one another. Here is our sin. It may be that we need to share our possessions of clothing or money. It also could be that we need to show our concern for new boys or girls in school. They may have no friends. We might be their friend and share our friendship circle. Not only is our life at stake but also the life of others.

How else can we serve Christ by serving others in school, in church, in our home, and in the community?

Dressed for a Wedding

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14

We have mentioned that overeating may cause our death through a heart attack. There is also a danger, of course, of death from starvation. A great banquet may be prepared for us, but it does not nourish our bodies unless we go to the wedding. We may think it is such a strange menu, or perhaps we never have tasted previously that particular food. If no other food is available and we know our abstaining would bring death, do you think we would still refuse? Of course not! How silly that would be.

This is exactly what has happened to many persons spiritually and perhaps to you. In our parable those who refused were killed by the king. If we refuse the spiritual feast prepared for us, we also will be eternally dead.

Four verses have been added to the Scripture reading for last Wednesday. They point up the need of being properly dressed for the feast. Does this mean we have to be properly dressed in the best clothes to come to Christian Endeavor meetings or other services?

Of course we realize that this isn't the message of these verses. It does mean that when we come to the feast for eternal life, we must come in the right spirit. Many may come to be members of a church, but in the spirit of self-righteousness. They must come in the spiritual clothing of self-denial to be one of His kingdom.

Spiritual Clothing

Scripture: John 3:9-21

We always like to have new styles of clothing and the best we can secure. There are many today who want to go to school, to recreational activities, on a date, or to church dressed in the finest of clothing but who are spiritually naked. God would clothe us in the finery of glory if we would but receive His gift. We must overcome our self-righteousness and be clothed in the righteousness of God through faith in Christ. We come into the world unclothed. We remain in a state of condemnation if we fail to believe in Christ. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that all might be saved and receive eternal life. Man often fails to be spiritually alive and clothed properly because of his condemnation. The condemnation of death is his because of his love for his sinful ways. Let us make our exploratory operation into our own life. What do we find inside ourselves? Do we like the dark places, or are we willing that our every thought would be brought into the light where everyone can see?

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Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude: Group in silent meditation
Call to Worship: Isaiah 55:6,7
Hymns: *Jesus Calls Us; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*
Invocation
Welcome to and Introduction of Visitors
Responsive Reading: Selection 10 (John 15:1-17)
Announcements and Offering
Prayer of Dedication of Offering
Solo or Group Singing: *Give of Your Best to the Master*
Scripture Reading: John 3:1-8
Silent Prayer: Soft music in background
Bidding Prayer: Leader suggests items for which the members are to pray with silence between each suggestion.
Leader's Introduction
Talks on the Topic
Hymn for Commitment: *Take My Life, and Let it Be*
Consecration Service: Dedication and Rededication
Hymn: *I Would Be Like Jesus*
Benediction

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We see those who make part of their spirit inactive because of their love for that which is evil. You know how difficult it is to break a bad habit. Have you ever thought why it is hard to break a habit? We sometimes say that we want to change and do better, that we want to give up our old ways, and that we want always to give a Christian impression to others; yet we don't seem quite able to accomplish it. Paul was speaking of this experience in Romans 7:15-25. It is our sinful nature within us that keeps us doing wrong. It is also our loving still to do that which is evil. Just how sincere are you in your commitment to Christ? Look inside your heart. Do you love God and believe in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as your Saviour, or do you love yourself and enjoy your evil ways more than God's ways?

It is easy to give up eating candy if we don't like its taste. It is harder to throw away that which is of value to us. What is the most valuable thing to us? Generally an operation costs much. Are you willing to pay the price of self-examination and of discipleship to have the gift of eternal life? An operation is painful, and so is your spiritual exploratory surgery. It sometimes hurts to change but you must change. Either you will perish or live according to your response to the light.

1. What is the most difficult thing for the youth of today to give up for Christ?
2. Would young people do many of the things they do today if they thought others could see them?
3. Would we think differently if those about us could read our minds?

Sons and Daughters

Scripture: Romans 8:12-25

Most of us today automatically have those whom we call our parents. It is normal that we call the man of the household our father. It has always been that way since we can first remember in our home. This is different in the case of those who have no father because of many different reasons. They have no father unless another man takes this particular place in their lives. This is sometimes accomplished through the courts as a husband and wife adopt a child. They accept the child as their own child. The child is now their son or daughter. He belongs to them. This could be compared to our becoming a child of God.

It is God who desires to have us as His children. This is brought to pass by God Himself as He leads us to give up our evil ways by the Holy Spirit. He leads us to believe in the name of His Son. By the Spirit of adoption we call Him Father. He is our Heavenly Father.

In the world our possessions are often passed on to others in our family who live after us. They receive our inheritance. What we have is now theirs. This is also true for us spiritually. What Jesus Christ possesses is passed on to us. We are joint heirs with Christ. He possesses the victory over death. It is ours also. He returned to be with the Father. We shall also be with the Father if we will permit ourselves to be led by the Spirit and become children of God.

Happy Living

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-15

We often think we have a difficult life. Sometimes it is painful to have surgery, but after that we really enjoy living. When we first start living for Christ, there may be those who ridicule us; yet it can be a happy experience. We are told that we will be happy if we suffer for Christ. We would remember that even Christ had to suffer to do the will of God. He suffered for us. If He was willing to die and to suffer for us, the least that we can do is to live for Him.

We are to be like salt. We need to flavor the world about us with the Christian spirit of love. Of course, if salt loses its power of seasoning, it is of no value. If we lose our power of loving, we are of no value for God. We need to keep strong by being close to God and doing His will and the work of His kingdom. We are to be His disciples. Our good works are to glorify God. Perhaps we should look inside and see whether our works are good or bad. Other men about us see our works. If they are bad works, they will ridicule God. If our works are good, they will witness to others that God is our God and our Heavenly Father.

It would be silly to light a candle and then hide it under a container of any kind. What would be the use of doing that? Many youth, and perhaps you, do this which we have described as silly. Christ is the true light of the world. We become the light of the world as we accept Him as our Saviour. Many youth accept Christ and then seemingly hide their light by trying not to let anyone know about it. One way of showing our loyalty to Christ and His Church is to take an active part in all of its work and program. Have you been examining yourself to see just how healthy you are spiritually?

1. Many people must go on a saltless diet. Would you like to eat without any salt? Would you like to live in a community that is not flavored with Christian influence?
2. We would say it is silly to walk in the dark without a light. There are youth about you that are in darkness. In what ways can you shine your light?

Take a Look Inside

Scripture: John 3:1-8

Take a look inside yourself. What do you see? What does your life show? Do your actions show that you are a new creature in Christ?

Is it important to accept Christ? He said that which is born of the Spirit is spirit and also that we must be born again. Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Tonight is your time of decision.

It isn't always a pretty picture to look inside. We see ourselves as we truly are. Without Christ life is without real purpose. It is dissatisfying and filled with loneliness, selfishness, hate, envy, jealousy, and frustration. We run from one activity to another to find happiness. We go from one person to another to know true friendship. Our elders don't seem to understand nor do they care for us or our feelings. Without Christ we cannot see things as they truly are. Without Christ we misinterpret all of life.

When we are born again we are born into a new world. We are born into the spiritual world of living with God, and all things are changed. Life now has a plan. We are now Christ-centered and no longer lonely. We are considerate of others and are concerned for them. In the place of hate there is love.

Look inside your life. What do you see? Do you see yourself or Christ?

Comments by Rev. Clyde E. West

Daily Bible Readings

M. Mar. 29 Uselessness Invites Disaster Luke 13:6-9
T. Mar. 30 Our Sin Affects All Men Matthew 25:31-46
W. Mar. 31 Refused Invitations Matthew 22:1-10
T. Apr. 1 How Can This Be? John 3:9-21
F. Apr. 2 Sonship Romans 8:12-25
S. Apr. 3 High Living Matthew 5:1-15
Sun. Apr. 4—Topic: Take a Look Inside John 3:1-8

Rev. Clyde E. West is a new Senior High-Young People's topic writer. He is associate pastor of the Nelson Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. West is married to the former Helen Louise Crouch, whose late father, Rev. Alfred C. Crouch, was at one time Executive Secretary of the Missouri Christian Endeavor Union. Mr. West received his undergraduate work at Kansas State College. His B.D. degree was conferred upon him by McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago. He is presently serving as pastor-counselor of the St. Louis Christian Endeavor Union.

For Publicity

For a special Easter season display, make a frieze picturing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Begin this a week ahead of time so that it may be used as a publicity reminder of the topic and remain on the wall for this meeting. Along one wall of the room, stretch wide rollerpaper or two of three yards of green or blue flannel. If you use paper and you have an especially good artist, ask him to draw the central figure of Jesus. If you do not have a capable artist, use a cutout of a Bible art picture. Those with less talent can help on color, background buildings, trees, and flowers. If you use flannel, flannelgraph figures can be used for an attractive display. Try to get everyone to participate in this project.

Playing the Chameleon

(Palm Sunday)

Mark 11:8-11; Luke 23:20-23

Leader's Introduction

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." With these descriptive words, the prophet Zechariah foretold the coming of the Son of God into the capital city, Jerusalem.

And when the time had come for the prophecy to be fulfilled, "A very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

The triumphal entry, as it is almost universally called, occurred on Sunday before the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. What a scene to have witnessed! Jesus, the meek and lowly, on an unbroken colt of a beast of burden came slowly down the path that descended the Mount of Olives, past doleful Gethsemane, across the viaduct over Kidron, toward the eastern gate of Jerusalem. Accompanying Him were the disciples and the admiring multitude made up of children and the childlike. They sang a hymn of praise: "Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

John describes another multitude surging out of the city to meet Him. The hills rang with their antiphonal response: "Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." Probably at no other time in the ministry of Jesus did He so publicly, so clearly, and so dramatically set forth His claims.

He rides no white charger. Yet, as the Prince of Peace, He acknowledges the praise of the multitudes as "the son of David." He refuses to silence the multitudes with the assertion that if He should do so the very stones would cry out in justice. He enters the city of the King in direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Certainly the leaders of Israel do not misunderstand the nature of His claims.

His entry into the city raised a question in the minds of the people: "And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?" And the event produced an incomplete answer: "And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee." This answer is highly significant. The crowd that sang His praises did not understand what they sang. Their voices gave complete acknowledgement, but their hearts did not go so far. Within a few days, they were playing the chameleon, and the popular voice was, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: Psalm 134:1-3
Hymns: *The Head That Once Was Crowned; Crown Him with Many Crowns*
Scripture Reading: Mark 11:8-11; Luke 23:20-23
Prayer Hymn: *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* (one stanza)
Sentence Prayers
Leader's Introduction
Introducing the Speakers
Talks on "What the Triumphant Entry Means to Me"
Talks on "My Gains From Jesus' Triumphant Entry"
Leader's Closing Exhortation
Benediction

Introducing the Speakers

The chameleon is an arboreal reptile bearing a superficial resemblance to a lizard. Slow and deliberate in movements, with feet adapted as perfect grasping organs, the chameleon is capable of certain color changes to harmonize with tone of background. Some people, in their actions, are like this small reptile. They can change their personalities, views, opinions, and convictions to fit the varied environments.

An appropriate illustration may be found in the 1964 National Baseball League. In the closing games three teams were vying for first position. One Sunday the Cincinnati Reds suddenly climbed to first place. Five thousand cheering fans met the members of the victorious team at the airport when they returned home. Later that week, they dropped back to third place, and "boos" could be heard in the grandstand.

Our allegiances can change quickly and often without notice, according to the circumstances and environment.

Tonight we're going to consider some Bible-times circumstances and try to envision some contemporary applications.

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What the Triumphant Entry Means to Me

Those who participate in this presentation may wear Biblical-time robes so that they may further carry out the motif of the frieze background. Each speaker should carry in his hand the object he discusses. (Assign the following parts to five speakers. Ask them to present the thoughts in their own words. Discourage their reading their parts.)

1. *(Speaker holds a rope or a bridle.)* Suppose Jesus had sent me to bring Him the colt. Would I have done it? Would I have trusted Jesus when He said, "And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them"? After all, the colt had not been trained, and in spite of what Jesus said, I would probably have been reluctant to take it without the owner's permission.

Today, I find many excuses for not following Jesus' directions. He has told me, in His Word, the Bible, what to do to be saved and how to live as one who has been redeemed. But am I willing to obey Him and follow Him? Am I willing to go where He wants me to go, to do what He wants me to do, to say what He wants me to say, to be what He wants me to be? I have to answer those questions in my mind; will you answer them in yours?

2. *(Speaker carries a palm or any leafy branch.)* Suppose I had been in Jerusalem that day. Would I have cheered Jesus and praised Him? Many leaders and rulers hated Jesus. They were already plotting to kill Him. Perhaps my life would have been in danger. Would I have wanted to be on the winning side? If the crowd on the sidelines were greater than the throng in the streets, whom would I have joined?

Today, I want to be popular. I want to go with the crowd. Is the majority always right?

3. *(Speaker carries extra robe over his arm.)* Suppose I had been in the procession that day, would I have thrown one of my robes in His pathway as an indication of praise and adoration? I'm afraid I would have been too selfish.

Today, I do not like to share my possessions with others. I live by the philosophy of what's mine is mine. But having considered the unselfishness of these people who entered Jerusalem with Jesus, I know I must be wrong. What do you think?

4. *(Speaker carries small wooden cross over his shoulder.)* Suppose I had been with Jesus when He was on trial. Would I have deserted Him as did the disciples and with Peter declare that I never knew Him? After all they were among enemies and they were only trying to save themselves from embarrassment and possible punishment.

When I am with a group of young people who do not believe in Christ, I do not admit that I am His follower, a Christian. I want to be popular. So I am afraid of causing others to think that I am peculiar. Am I wrong?

5. *(Speaker is in modern dress, carrying Bible.)* I do not have to use the suppositions of the other speakers. I know the problems I and other young people face. I know we want to be accepted among those of our own age group. We want to be popular. But at what price? We know that the majority is not always right. Thus, we must stand firm in our Christian convictions, even if we do not have the acclaim of the worldly crowd. We must confess Christ at every opportunity, for if we deny Him here on earth, He will deny us in heaven. But if we accept and obey Him here, He will confess us before the heavenly Father. We cannot acknowledge Him in church on Sunday and deny Him during the week in school and at social functions. If we do we'll be guilty of playing the chameleon.

My Gains from Jesus' Triumphant Entry

(Assign the following parts to three speakers. Again, ask them to present the thoughts in their own words.)

1. *A thankful feeling for the friends I have.* Jesus knew who His real friends were. He appreciated them. He knew that many would turn away when trouble came, but He was happy to have the friendship of a faithful few. We should appreciate real friendship, not lose it through selfishness or neglect.

2. *Ability to face crises calmly.* Jesus knew what was ahead. He walked toward it. He had prayed faithfully; God knew He would rather avoid it. But if such a time must come, Jesus went to meet it—not running away, not cowardly. Certainly in the world today we need to acquire the ability to face crises calmly. Jesus has shown us a calm that overcomes all else.

3. *Ability to adapt to the world without becoming worldly.* Certainly Jesus must have known that many of those people thought He was an earthly king. Nevertheless, they were recognizing Kingship, and He accepted their homage. Some day, perhaps many of them would understand His divinity. But Jesus never tried to carry out their wishes, to take over worldly power, to meet earthly rulers on their own ground. He remained God's Son, triumphant in His own right. We must live in the world; are we able to remain separate from it?

Leader's Closing Exhortation

The triumphal entry, as such, was not triumphant, for "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Beating, spitting, mocking, tears, agony, and death awaited the King in the city of Jerusalem.

The triumph of the Son of God lay beyond the cross, beyond the open tomb, when in the risen and glorified body He made His triumphal entry into heaven itself, "leading captivity captive," where, adorned by the angels and the redeemed, He took His place on the throne "at the right hand of the Majesty on high," there to reign "until his enemies become the footstool of his feet."

Alternate Program

Rather than using the program suggested above, conduct a Scripture Hunt-Song Fest program.

Divide the group into teams and, with one person as the moderator, ask members of the various teams to find Scripture verses. The first person to find the given verse should raise his hand and read the verse. A point should be awarded to the first team finding the verse, with the team acquiring the most points being declared the winner.

A large selection of verses—perhaps all pertaining to the triumphal entry, surrounding events, and prophecy fulfillments—should be prepared by the leader before the meeting.

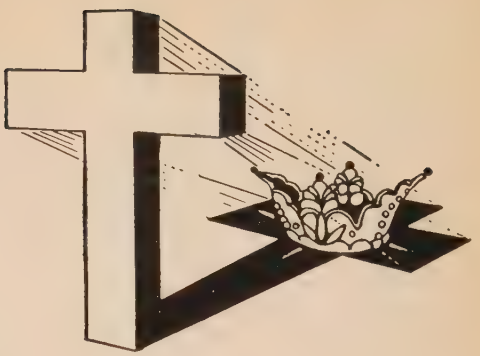
Intersperse the Scripture Hunt with songs that have to do with the entry into Jerusalem, the agony, and the crucifixion. Save songs concerning the resurrection for next week's program.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 5 Majoring in Minors Mark 10:35-45
T. Apr. 6 Holy Anger Mark 11:1-10
W. Apr. 7 Love's Extravagance Mark 14:1-9
T. Apr. 8 A Night to Remember Mark 14:17-28
F. Apr. 9 Living Up to Life's Promises Mark 14:29-42
S. Apr. 10 Life's Decisive Decisions Mark 15:1-21
Sun. Apr. 11—Topic: Playing the Chameleon Mark 11:8-11; Luke 23:20-23 (Palm Sunday)

Comments by Jay Sheffield of Cincinnati, Ohio, editor of THE LOOKOUT

Cataract Christians



(Easter)

John 21:1-24

To the Leader

Easter evening can be an anticlimax, even a letdown. You doubtlessly will have had stirring services, beginning perhaps with a sunrise service. The morning worship will have been well attended and elaborate. Perhaps a musical program will follow the Christian Endeavor meeting, contrasting rather severely with your meeting.

Whatever time your Christian Endeavor meeting is held, it may be hard to compete with the other services. The answer is: *don't try to compete!* Plan extra well to bring a meeting that is challenging and helpful. Pray much about it. Study the very letdown which may come after such a time of special activity as the Easter season.

Our topic for today is about a situation similar to a letdown. We are studying about spiritual cataracts.

Isaiah (chapter 44) pours scorn on the idol maker who fashions a god out of wood and then worships it, using the residue to make a fire to warm himself and bake his bread. The idol maker himself cannot see. Both Jeremiah (5:21) and Ezekiel (12:2) speak of rebellious men who "have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not." And Paul, in the book of Romans (11:-25), even speaks of blindness "in part" which has come upon Israel "until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."

But there is an old proverb which suggests that none is so blind as he who *will* not see. Certainly spiritual cataracts seem to have definite antecedents. Perhaps some of these will be suggested to you as the topic unfolds.

Here are some points which will go far in helping you to lead a good meeting:

Begin early to plan your meeting. You should have every detail in order at least by Palm Sunday. You *must* allow for necessary changes or even refusals.

Try to continue the deep feeling of the Easter season. Recognize, however, that mountain-top experiences did not continue even in the lives of the apostles of Christ.

Study the material thoroughly yourself. Feel very free to improvise and to improve on the suggested program.

Assign the work of the cell group leaders at least one week in advance. Request any individual participation such as Scripture reading or special music at least one full week in advance.

Make use of special talent and abilities within your own group or available through your church. Does one of the members sing or play an instrument well, but is seldom asked? Does another have a gift for dialogue? Could an older person in the church help greatly in this particular topic? Use your imagination.

And pray.

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High: to show forth Thy loving-kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night."

Opening Hymn: *Lead On, O King Eternal* or *Onward, Christian Soldiers*

Invocation

Hymns: *Are Ye Able, Said the Master; I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Announcements and Offering

Scripture Reading: John 21:1-6, 12-17

Leader's Talk

Presentation by Cell Groups

Leader's Conclusion

Consecration Music—either a solo, or the hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Sentence Prayers

Benediction

Publicity

Make posters. Cut from magazines or draw a pair of glasses, and print in large letters the words of the topic title, CATARACT CHRISTIANS. Then list the date, time, place, and leader.

Call by phone all members and prospects during the week (preferably late in the week) to remind them of the meeting and to secure their promise of participation. You may need a committee to help with the calls.

Announce the meeting in the midweek prayer service and the Sunday school, and be sure it is announced in the church bulletin.

A card should be sent to every member and prospect by the society secretary. Ask each one specifically to read John 21 so that the lesson will be meaningful.

Make this meeting so interesting that it will be effective advertising for the meeting next week!

Leader's Talk

A cataract is a disease of the eye which darkens the lens. It usually gets progressively worse, and until the days of modern surgery normally ended in almost total blindness. There are also spiritual cataracts. A strange blindness seems to overtake men. What afterward is seen to be blessing, in our blindness at the time we think is disaster.

A few years ago when prospecting for uranium ore was at fever pitch, someone found a vast and valuable deposit within sight of U.S. Highway 66.

(Continued on next page)

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Thousands upon thousands of people had driven by it and many had wished to find such a deposit, but all of them had driven by without "seeing" it, though they had looked at it or at least toward it. But, in seeing it, they had not recognized it for what it was.

Spiritual sight is often thus. Events in our Christian experience are not seen in eternal perspective. So often events are seen as fragments and not related to our whole lives or even to God. So often we judge in the light of immediate circumstances of pain or joy, satisfaction or annoyance, and the lasting values or lessons are lost. How often do we fail to see through God's design!

No man, indeed, can hope to see with the eyes of God. But God does give glimpses of His purpose; He does beg us in His Word to trust Him; He has given countless examples of His care.

Perhaps the supreme example of cataracted vision has been the vision of the Cross itself. To those about the Cross, it all seemed utter defeat. All the hosts of hell seemed to have triumphed, and heaven seemed to have lost. From the fleeing disciples to the weeping women, all seemed to be hopeless tragedy. The very sun ceased its shining. They thought it to be earth's blackest day. In many ways it was! But through it all, and above it all, God's will was being worked out. The fleeing disciples could not see it. The heavyhearted women could not see it. Everything seemed to be lost. But it was not.

The story is told that during the Civil War when the quick communication of news from the battlefield meant the wigwagging of flag signals from one mountain top to another, the news was being flashed of a crucial battle: "McClellan defeated . . ." Then the clouds and mists closed in. The news in those two words was flashed on. Deep mourning settled down. But finally, hours later, the clouds lifted, and the message was resumed: "McClellan defeated the enemy!" Mourning was turned into wild rejoicing.

The disciples could see no victory in the Cross. They had been told again and again by our Lord that He must go up to Jerusalem to suffer. They had been told in the plainest of language and in various ways. But they could not see it.

And Christians even today seem so often to see only the darkness of Calvary and the tomb. The Cross seems to be only stark tragedy. A little newsboy, it is said, stood looking at a picture of the crucifixion in a great store window at Easter time. A passerby paused and heard him saying, "They took and crucified Him. He didn't do no wrong, nor hurt nobody. But they crucified Him." The passerby moved on—but when the little newsboy looked up to see him gone, he ran to catch his sleeve, "But, Mister, I wanted to tell you, He rose again!"

We need constantly to remember that the Cross was not alone tragedy, but victory. He rose again!

Mary Magdalene could not see because of her tears. Her tears were as cataracts on her eyes. She looked at Jesus and thought He was the gardener. She looked at Him, the Lord she sought, but she could not see Him! Grief can cause us not to see. Christians can let grief destroy the vision of Christ. Some even blame God for their sorrows. But perhaps grief has not so often distorted our sight or even blinded us as has joy! God is not seen or is forgotten more quickly in pleasure than in pain. How strange that spiritual cataracts are formed by both extremes!

The disciples on the walk to Emmaus had "spot blindness" or "selective cataracts." They saw the road, they knew the way—but they could not see Jesus to recognize Him as they walked and talked. As they drew near their dwelling place at Emmaus, they recognized their room and saw the bread, but they did not know Jesus until He broke the bread and gave it to them. Yet on the way Jesus had said to them, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?" (Luke 24:25,26).

And the disciples were still partially blind as they went back to the Sea of Galilee, as recorded in our Scripture reading. Though they had seen the risen Christ, they still were dazed and defeated. In perplexity and faithlessness, they sought the old ways. Simon Peter, always a leader, declared, "I go fishing." Six others who had also been fishermen answered back, "We also go with you." So back they went to the old haunts, to the old scenes, to the old way of life. Christ had given them a new life and a new vocation, but they were clouded in vision and unable to see either the victory of the Cross or the glory of their calling. But Jesus followed them. Some have thought our Lord was playing with them — they had toiled all night and caught nothing, and Jesus cried out to them in the gray of the morning, "Children, have ye any meat?" They answered, "No." Then when they were come to the shore He fed them and tenderly pointed them back to the vocation to which He had called them. To Simon Peter, when He had asked if he loved Him, He commanded, "Feed my lambs."

Often we fail to see the purpose, in the joys and sorrows of our lives. We often have spiritual cataracts. But a lost job, a failed examination, even a broken heart may bring blessing in the end. "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Cell Groups

Organize as many cell groups as you have persons available, to discover how individuals in the Bible had limited views, but later these events which were misunderstood were seen to be the messengers of God. Use such men and events as Joseph sold into Egypt, Elijah under the juniper tree, Jonah commissioned to preach to Nineveh, and Paul in the Roman dungeon.

Leader's Conclusion

One missionary told that when the Communists overran China, on the morning that Shanghai was taken, a Christian program was in progress on one of the radio stations. As he fled through one embattled street he heard the recorded voice of George Beverly Shea singing, "If we could see beyond today as God does see . . ." Through the toils and terrors of his escape, he never forgot those words. Let us seek always to see that God is the victor!

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 12 Turning the Wrong Way for Help Matthew 27:3-10
T. Apr. 13 Grief's Distorted Vision John 20:11-18
W. Apr. 14 Honest Doubts John 20:24-29
T. Apr. 15 Turning Back to Life's Rutted Routines John 21:1-8
F. Apr. 16 A New Outlook on Life John 21:9-14
S. Apr. 17 Life's Big Business John 21:15-17
Sun. Apr. 18—Topic: Cataract Christians John 21:1-24
(Easter)

Comments by Dr. Elias D. White, pastor of the First Brethren Church, La Verne, California

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, $6 per dozen, $48 per hundred.

Topic 1 in a Unit: Love — Life's Dynamic Dimension

It's Love, It's Love

I Corinthians 13

Publicity and Promotion

Make several posters to place around the church advertising this program. On the left of the poster paste pictures of a romantic nature clipped from a "true love" type of magazine. You may use pictures of famous Hollywood couples known for their numerous romances. On the right side of the poster paste a picture of Calvary or of a simple cross. Sprinkle the poster with question marks of various sizes. In the center print in large letters: IT'S LOVE, IT'S LOVE. Then at the bottom announce the place, date, and hour of the meeting. However, the best invitation to any youth meeting is a personal one. Encourage each active member to try to bring one new guest to this meeting of your society.

Guidance for Leader

A good way to start this program is to present a brief skit. The first scene might show a group of teenagers sitting around a portable phonograph playing current romantic rock-and-roll hits. One person should be reading a love magazine very intensely, but stopping occasionally to comment with approval about the "true" love affairs portrayed in the book. Others should be sharing some "tasty" gossip about a local love tryst.

After a few minutes a telephone rings and the host answers it. He is reminded by the caller of a rescue mission meeting that the society will be conducting that evening, but replies that he is too busy to attend. The caller tries to convince our host of the meeting's importance, but he puts him off and terminates the call. When the host returns to the group someone asks him, "What was all that about?" The answer is "Oh, something about a mission meeting. He kept talking about the love of Christ for lost souls."

At this point the leader introduces the topic of the evening. He presents the contemporary popular understanding of the word "love" and expresses the desire to arrive at the more authentic Christian definition of the word in the light of Biblical revelation. He stresses the contrast not only between true and false concepts, but also between right and wrong expressions of love.

The leader sets the tone of the program, and so it is important that he makes his presentation with great sincerity and integrity. Following four talks on the nature of Christian love, the leader moderates a discussion on concepts of love prompted by physical attraction, affectual fantasy, and infatuation, as seen in the light of the Christian understanding of love. It is most important that this discussion be conducted on a serious level and that it not degenerate into an aimless free-for-all. It is appropriate that the counselor contribute some concluding remarks in the nature of a summary. Someone should read aloud I Corinthians 13:4-6 in the Phillips Translation once more. After the closing hymn, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, the leader should close the meeting with the apostolic benediction.

As a follow-up of the meeting, your Social Committee might plan an informal gathering at a later time when two or three married couples from the church might share what their love for each other over the years has meant and become. Refreshments could be served following the discussion.

Leader's Talk

Do you think that you are able to define the word "love"? Many people use this word every single day and mean a variety of things by it. Some say, "I *love* hot fudge sundaes." Others, probably most, say, "I hear that Jack is madly in *love* with the new girl in the chemistry class." And still others say, "More brotherly *love* is needed in our culture," and yet others, "God *loved* us so much that He gave us His only Son; we ought to *love* others as He loves us." Here are four concepts expressed by the same word *love*. What is the most distinctively Christian use of the word?

First of all, it would be good for us to know that the Greek language in which the New Testament was written had a number of words for our one word *love*. The main words were *eros, philia,* and *agape. Eros,* generally meaning romantic or sexual love, is never found written on the pages of the New Testament. *Philia* refers to social or brotherly love, the love and affection of friends and relatives. It is found occasionally in the New Testament, e.g., Romans 12:10, and refers generally to a common type of love among human beings.

Agape is the most distinctive New Testament word. It refers primarily to the selfless, self-giving, and self-sacrificing love of God to human beings. *Agape* is undeserved and unearned. It is spontaneous and uncaused. It refers secondarily to man's responsive and grateful love to God because of His grace, and finally to that quality of love among men which is based upon and patterned after God's free love to the children of men revealed perfectly in the inexpressible gift of Jesus Christ. It is the meaning that should come into our minds as Christians whenever we use or hear the word. It is proper foundation of other types of love.

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: John 13:34,35
Hymn: *Love Divine*
Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-11
Evening Prayer
Announcements and Offering
Hymn: *My Saviour's Love*
Special Feature: Have some young people prepare a choral reading of I Corinthians 13 in the Phillips Translation or have someone dramatize the apostle Paul uttering these words as he writes I Corinthians. Here, too, use the Phillips Translation.
Leader's Introduction
Talks on the Topic
Topic Discussion
Counselor's Conclusions
Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
Apostolic Benediction: II Corinthians 13:14

Talks on the Topic

God So Loved — He Gave

God's love for the world is supremely and perfectly revealed in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He is the love of God incarnated among men. All that the Bible, Old and New Testaments, says or implies about the proper meaning of love is expressed completely and finally in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian concept of love is not built upon some carefully reasoned philosophy of out-

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standing human discovery. It is based upon the demonstration of God's love in sending His only Son into the world and giving Him up to die a criminal's death on a Roman cross as an atonement for our sins.

All that Jesus Christ was, said, and did revealed the love of God. His friendship with sinners, His concern for the suffering, His restoration of the fallen (John 8:1-11), and His unceremonial healing on the Sabbath (John 5:1-18) all manifested God's love. But the supreme expression of love is seen in the self-sacrifice of our Lord. From His washing of the disciples' feet at the Last Supper to His pardon of the repentant thief on the Cross, from the first shedding of His blood by the scourge and the crown of thorns to the pouring out of it by the nails and the spear we see God's love revealed and proved.

This love of God is free and unconditional. He loved us, we read in Romans 5:1-11, when we were helpless, ungodly, sinful, and His enemies. It was then that He reconciled us to Himself by the death of His Son, and now He offers to us and to all men forgiveness of sin and eternal life upon repentance of sin and faith in His promises in Christ. We love Him because He first loved us.

How can we not love this God who so loved the world? Not only did God take the initial steps toward reconciling fallen humanity, but He accomplished the work Himself in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. The fact of this amazing grace creates not only wonder in our minds, but also gratitude and humility in our hearts. By faith in this redeeming love we are awakened to a new relationship with God: we trust Him, we obey Him, we love Him.

The law of God in the Old Testament commanded men to love God but was powerless to produce love because of the hardness and the sinfulness of the natural human heart. The Gospel of God in the New Testament creates love because the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

This new love generates obedience to God's commands and service to His Kingdom *(read John 14:15,21)*. God's wondrous love within us inspires words of thanksgiving and songs of praises. It is marked by great joy and unspeakable peace.

Most uniquely, a Christian's love to God is based upon and strengthened by his new fellowship with God through His Son Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Only the Gospel offers friendship and fellowship with God. God's act of reconciliation in Christ was meant not only to redeem us to His family as children, but also to restore us to His communion as friends. A Christian's faith in God is not impersonal and detached. It is personal and involved. He knows the God whom He loves. He hears Him speak in His Words and responds in prayer.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is physical attraction a sufficient basis for boy-girl friendships? Is romantic love non-spiritual in nature?
2. Contrast the concept of love as portrayed in the movies and in popular magazines and music with the Biblical teaching on love. Evaluate a few movies, stories, and records in the light of the Gospel.
3. What is the difference between love and infatuation?
4. What is wrong with contemporary ideas of free, unrestricted love activity as expressed in the so-called "new morality"?

Let Us Love One Another

However, love to God can never be seen apart from love to man. Love to God is manifested and proved by love to other human beings *(read I John 4:11,20)*. Here again, that love of neighbor which was imposed under the Old Covenant is now spontaneously produced under the New as a fruit of the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts. We now follow the example of God's love. We now love the brethren and all men because God has loved us so much as to give His Son for us. As our Lord prepared to leave His disciples He commanded them to love one another as He had loved them (John 13:34). If we cannot love God whom we have not seen, we surely will not love those about us that we can see. The love that God has created in our hearts not only reaches upward to Him but outward to others in kindness and mercy, fellowship and service.

And this love is the basis for all other types of love. It is a spontaneous, gracious love. It is a holy and righteous love. It is not a selfish, materialistic love. It is not a free, licentious love. It is like God's love in that it is selfless and generous. It is like God's love in that it is pure and full of kindness.

And it is precisely at this point that the Christian puts romantic love into proper focus. The love of a man for a woman or a boy for a girl cannot be detached from love to God in the Christian sense of trust and obedience or isolated from love to all men as sensitive persons and as moral beings. A Christian should always and only deal with others in the light of what God in Christ has done for all men and in the light of what God expects of all men. Love, courtship, and marriage are interpreted by the Christian from this perspective alone.

Conclusion

Christian love or *agape* is the characteristic or mark of a true follower of Jesus Christ. It is selfless as opposed to selfish. It is self-giving rather than self-seeking. It is the basis of all other types of love and especially of romantic love. Without this quality of love romantic love will ultimately become base, vain, and frustrating. Christian love respects all men as persons and all persons as moral beings. There can be no happiness in this world without God's love. There can be no true love without God. Only the presence of God can hallow every relationship, heal every spiritual illness, transcend every obstacle, and lighten every burden. Christian love must be experienced in the heart more than rationalized in the mind. It is a living thing: growing, developing, maturing, and mellowing. And it is always like the King of love, even Jesus Christ: *(read I Corinthians 13:4-6 in the Phillips Translation)*.

Comments by Rev. Allen A. Ruscito

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 19 Love's Example Romans 5:6-11
T. Apr. 20 Love and Obedience I John 4:13-5:5
W. Apr. 21 Love in Action I John 3:11-18
T. Apr. 22 Love's Inter-relationships John 14:15-24
F. Apr. 23 The Twin Commandments Mark 12:28-34
S. Apr. 24 Christ's Startling Demand Matthew 5:43-47
Sun. Apr. 25—Topic: It's Love, It's Love I Corinthians 13

Rev. Allen A. Ruscito is a new Senior High-Young People's topic writer. He is assistant pastor and minister of education of the First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, New Jersey. He is married. Mr. Ruscito received his undergraduate work at Bloomfield College, New Jersey. He attended Princeton Theological Seminary and received his B.D. degree. Mr. Ruscito served as a conference leader at the New Jersey Christian Endeavor Union's Drew Conference last summer. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Topics and Helps

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS

Topic Summaries for April

Prepared by the Adult Work Committee

The Adult Work Committee which prepared these summaries included Timothy J. Kribs, chairman; Rev. R. P. Carter, Wanna Sell, and Mrs. Roger D. Vander Kolk.

Being a Christian (three topics)

1. Attitudes: Christ's or Mine?
Philippians 2:1-11; 4:8

Knowledge that does not affect the attitudes of the learner is useless. Our attitude toward something determines our relationship to it. To learn that "Jesus loves me" without having our attitude changed accordingly is meaningless. How *do* we determine what our attitude will be? How *should* we decide? It should be obvious that the study of God's Word is essential for Christians in order that we may know Christ's way and determine our attitude accordingly. Why is it not always pleasant to have the attitude Christ would have? Give illustrations of times when it appears easier to have a selfish attitude rather than Christ's attitude. Why is it vitally important to develop a Christ-like attitude?

2. Life: Triumph or Drudgery?
Luke 19:28-40; Romans 8:37

Recognizing that Christ is Lord of all and that He shall reign until His enemies become His footstool is basic to the Christian life. In our day when automation and mass production are prevalent a Christian needs to be on guard against life becoming a drudgery. Every day should be seen as a gift from God to be used as God desires. When we look at life in this way, our drudgery can be turned into triumph. No matter what may happen we have the assurance that Christ is in control and His way will triumph. Why should it comfort us as Christians to know we are on the winning side? What can we do to change our view of life?

3. Death: A Highway or a Dead End?
I Corinthians 15

How we view death affects our view of life. Why, for a Christian, is death not the end? The resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead not only shows the power and greatness of God, but also shows that we should live a Christian life here to be able to live with God hereafter. What does the resurrection of Christ have to do with our living a Christian life? What does it mean to live a resurrected Christian life—raised from what—to what? In the light of the resurrection of Christ how should we view our relation to material possessions, family, friends, and to the world? What does it mean that death can be a highway? Is death a highway or a dead end to us?

Personality Problems (two topics)

1. The Others Around Us
Mark 12:28-31; John 15:12-27

You're lonely? No one cares? It's always "blue Monday" in your life? So what have you done about it? Like many, you've only complained and expected others to find the answers. It is true that man is a gregarious creature and desires and needs the companionship of others if he is to be truly happy. He has a need to share and to be needed by others. Often those who turn the concern they have for happiness toward others find happiness themselves. The word "involved" is tossed about freely in society. People say that they cannot afford to "get involved." A Christian cannot afford not to become involved with those around him. "To have a friend, one must first be a friend" is a quotation which should be discussed. The book *The Lonely Crowd*, by D. Riesman, Yale University Press, is an excellent resource for this topic.

Note: The remaining topic in this series will appear in the April 1965 CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD.

Topics for July, August, and September

Young Adult and Adult groups need to plan ahead for weekly meetings and select leaders in ample time. Here are the topics which will appear in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD for use during the months of July through September 1965.

Participation in Government (two topics)

1. **In the Know**—Exodus 3:7-18; Numbers 27:15-23 (studying the mechanics of government and how the power of public office can be controlled)
2. **What If . . .?**—Psalm 48; I Peter 2:13-17 (brainstorming session concerning government and individual responsibility)

Devotional Life (two topics)

1. **I Hear a Voice**—Genesis 3:8-10; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Revelation 5:11-14 (how to hear God speaking; consideration of things that often interfere)
2. **"Come Ye Apart . . ."**—Mark 6:30-32; Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12 (taking time for the Quiet Hour in the midst of a busy schedule)

Inter-Faith Marriages (two topics)

1. **Equally Yoked**—II Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (unity in marriage; necessity of commitment to Christ)
2. **Two into One**—Ephesians 5:21-23 (a study of the relation between husband and wife in a Christian home)

Community Problems (three topics)

1. **Obscene Literature**—James 1:13-22; II Peter 2:4-10 (methods to combat objectionable literature in the community)
2. **Respect for the Law**—Matthew 5:17-20; 22:15-21 (the Christian's responsibility with regard to laws and law enforcement)
3. **Crisis in Sex Ethics**—Proverbs 7; John 8:3-11 (sex morality in North America; what Christians can and should do about it)

Church and State (two topics)

1. **Enemies of Religious Liberty?**—Hosea 4:1-9; Romans 13:1-8 (relation of government to religion—taxation, prayers in school, use of public funds for parochial schools, etc.)
2. **Your Responsibility**—Mark 12:13-17 (how the Christian can bear witness in the community and nation)

Movements toward Unity (two topics)

1. **What Is Unity?**—John 17:11-21; Acts 2:41-47; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13 (Bible study on the Church)
2. **Unity Today**—Philippians 1:26-30; I John 4:1-13 (current report of church unions and mergers; barriers; community cooperation)

FOR A BETTER SOCIETY PROGRAM
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Contains 25 undated topics, a selection of the best topic treatments appearing in recent issues of THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD. An excellent resource for any society — Junior High, Senior High, or Young People's age. A supplemental source of material for the weekly meeting. Includes a variety of topics, suitable for any occasion, usable by small or large groups.

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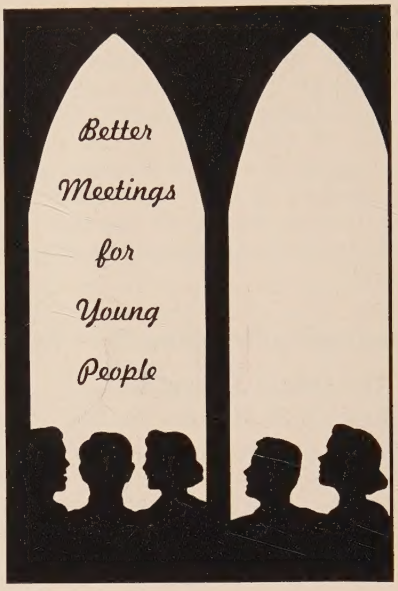

An excellent resource book for the local society. Written by Dr. Harry Thomas Stock, the material has been completely revised and up-dated. A special help for the society Devotional Committee. Includes details about different types of meetings, the worship service, the meeting room, enlisting participation, etc. Over 100 pages of vital information. Available April 1.

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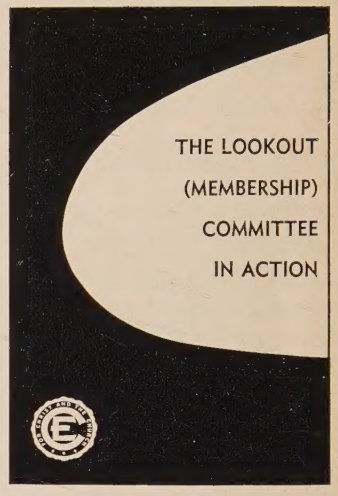

The first of a series of ACTION booklets, one for each of the five major committees. Provides detailed instructions for organizing the committee, holding present members, and recruiting new ones. Pages are provided to list the society members and to record attendance and participation. Every society interested in growing and winning youth should use this new publication.

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